



SALE OF FINE WINES

There is much evidence that over the past few months prices for Fine Wines have gradually but noticeably increased from the rock-bottom levels reached a year ago. It is also clear that due to many factors, not the least of which is the superb quality but less than abundant yield of the 1975 vintage, prices for wines of 1970 and earlier will continue to harden.

We strongly recommend now as the time to buy.

Quantity: 150 Cases 1967 Ch. LA VIEILLE Eglise (Cotes de Fronsac) £22

100 Cases 1970 OOMAINO O'LEMMITAGE (Cotes de Fronsac) £22

89 Cases 1970 Ch. MAYNE LEVEQUE (Graves) £22

138 Cases 1970 Ch. COTE PUY BLANQUET (St Emilion) £24

140 Cases 1970 Ch. MEYNE (St Emilion) £24

50 Cases 1970 Ch. TAFFARD (St Emilion) £25

58 Cases 1970 Ch. BEAUSITE HAUT VIGNOLES (St Emilion) £26

90 Cases 1970 Ch. LA CROIX BEAUSIEUR (St Emilion) £26

75 Cases 1970 Ch. LA CAROINE (Medoc) £27

60 Cases 1967 Ch. HAUT BERGAY (Graves) £27

175 Cases 1970 Ch. MARQUIS DE MONS (St Emilion) £28

86 Cases 1970 Ch. POINTE (St Emilion) £29

42 Cases 1970 Ch. MOUJON ROUGE (Haut Medoc) £30

33 Cases 1970 Ch. LES ORMES DE PEZ (St Emilion) £30

49 Cases 1970 Ch. RIEPEAU (St Emilion) £30

Clarets for the Connoisseur

63 Cases 1970 Ch. LAGRANGE (Pauillac) £32

100 Cases 1970 Ch. CROZET BAGES (Pauillac) £32

130 Cases 1967 Ch. PONTET CANET (Pauillac) £33

72 Cases 1967 Ch. CANNON LA GAFFELIERE (St Emilion) £33

50 Cases 1970 Ch. BATAILLE (Pauillac) £38

20 Cases 1966 Ch. DISSAN (Cote de Fronsac) £36

60 Cases 1967 Ch. DUCRU BEAUCAILLON (St Julien) £37

22 Cases 1964 Ch. LA TOUR DE MONS (Margaux) £38

45 Cases 1970 Ch. LEVILLON LASCASES (St Julien) £39

32 Cases 1970 Ch. FICHOT LALANOE (Pauillac) £39

37 Cases 1964 Ch. MONTROSE (St Julien) £42

86 Cases 1966 Ch. LEVILLON PUYFERRE (St Julien) £42

24 Cases 1966 Ch. GRUAU LAROSE (St Julien) £44

28 Cases 1964 Ch. COS D'ESTOURNEL (St Julien) £44

11 Cases 1963 Ch. MOUTON ROTHSCHILD (Pauillac) £48

35 Cases 1963 Ch. LARTET ROTHSCHILD (Pauillac) £52

28 Cases 1969 Ch. TALEOT (St Julien) £60

9 Cases 1961 Ch. TALBOT (St Julien) £68

20 Cases 1964 Ch. CHEVAL BLANC (St Emilion) £75

27 Cases 1964 Ch. MOUTON ROTHSCHILD (Pauillac) £80

23 Cases 1966 Ch. MOUTON ROTHSCHILD (Pauillac) £80

12 Cases 1959 Ch. MOUTON ROTHSCHILD (Pauillac) £95

Clarets in Half-Bottles

60 Cases 1970 Ch. LATOUR CAVALIERES (Cotes de Fronsac) £22

19 Cases 1970 Ch. BEL AIR (Cotes de Fronsac) £24

20 Cases 1966 Ch. LA VIEILLE Eglise (Cotes de Fronsac) £25

70 Cases 1966 Ch. PONTET CANET (Pauillac) £30

42 Cases 1966 Ch. CRUAU LAROSE (St Julien) £33

40 Cases 1966 Ch. TALBOT (St Julien) £33

62 Cases 1964 Ch. LEVILLON PUYFERRE (St Julien) £38

17 Cases 1964 Ch. RAUSAN SEGLA (Margaux) £40

13 Cases 1969 Ch. RAUSAN GASSIES (Margaux) £46

14 Cases 1971 Ch. LATOUR (Pauillac) £78

18 Cases 1964 Ch. MOUTON ROTHSCHILD (Pauillac) £80

1 Case 1964 Ch. LAURENT BOUTIN (Pauillac) £80

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HOME NEWS

Minister overrules inquiry to allow Scottish oil refinery

From David Leigh
Edinburgh

A £150m oil refinery is to be built at Nigg Point in the north of Scotland. Mr. Ross, Secretary of State for Scotland, yesterday overruled the findings of a public inquiry that a refinery would be ugly, polluting and economically disturbing, saying the Cromarty Firth on the north-east coast needed the jobs.

The decision, welcomed within the Highland Regional Council, has important implications. The work on building oil rigs, which has transformed parts of Scotland from decline to boom conditions, is showing signs of running out. A refinery would be part of the "downstream" processing activity arising from North Sea oil which, it is hoped, may bring more permanent employment, as well as further improving the United Kingdom balance of payments.

Further down the east coast, at Peterhead, for example, two applications to build gas-processing plants are awaiting decisions by Mr. Ross. The hope among Highland authorities will now be that more petrochemical works may eventually spring up in the "growth point" on the Cromarty Firth.

Mr. Ross's decision contrasts with that in the Drumblair inquiry, the last big clash between environmental and industrial interests in the north of Scotland, where consent was eventually refused for oil platform building on a west coast beauty spot.

Although five hundred objectors testified to the nine-week inquiry last year on the refinery and despite the findings of the inquiry (inquiry inspector, the Scottish Office announced yesterday: "The arguments in this case are finely balanced. On the one hand it is clear that there are

dangers of oil pollution inherent in the project and that even with the most stringent precautions there can be no guarantee that some pollution of this nature will not occur. There is also bound to be some effect on fishing.

Equally, no overriding national need for further refinery capacity has emerged. On the other hand the new jobs and the supporting employment would be a significant contribution to the economy of the area."

Mr. Ross had decided it would be a very serious step to turn away such a development in an industrial growth area. Construction of the new refinery, to be built by Cromarty Petroleum, a subsidiary of an American tanker firm, National Bulk Carriers, of New York, may begin within a year. The refinery will be built over three to four years and the labour force living in camps will rise to a peak of 1,000.

The refinery will provide about 450 permanent jobs processing oil from tankers arriving both from North Sea fields and the Atlantic East. The company envisages refining about 10 million tons annually. United Kingdom refinery capacity by the 1980s is expected to be 10 million tons.

Mr. Ross has decided that it is well worth overriding environmental protests to gain 40 to 50 years of potential industrial life for the refinery. But the application has been granted only on strict planning conditions.

Our Energy Correspondent writes: Unofficial approaches to the other hand, the former British National Oil Corporation about participation in the Nigg refinery. Lord Kearton, chairman, declined to say who had made the approach, but he added that the corporation was investigating the possibility of participating in a number of refining projects.

MP's breach of privilege claim rejected

A contention by Mrs Winifred Ewing, Scottish National Party MP for Moray and Nairn, that an attack on her by a fellow MP was a breach of parliamentary privilege was rejected yesterday by the speaker, Mr. George Thomas.

Mrs Ewing had complained about a letter in the *North Eastern Scotland Mail* and *Nairn Express* on February 23, by Mr. William Hamilton, Labour MP for Forth, Central. She maintained that it was defamatory and accused her of gross dereliction of duty as an MP in the European Parliament.

Report for DPP on loss of Wilson papers

Detectives are preparing a report for the Director of Public Prosecutions on investigations into the disappearance of private papers belonging to the Prime Minister.

The report will be sent to the DPP in the next few weeks and involves eight burglaries of premises in which papers were stored. Four men were questioned on duty at Cannon Row police station yesterday but were not detained.

Jury told that murdered girl was seen at fête

Two sisters saw Alison Chadwick, aged 10, at a fête on the day she disappeared in 1974, a jury at the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday. The times they gave, about 3 pm, are later than the time a key prosecution witness says she saw Alison Chadwick enter the house of Stanley Rogers, aged 56, who is accused of the murder.

Georgina Hards, aged 12, and her sister, Janet, aged 10, were giving evidence yesterday for Mr. Rogers, of Rosebery Road, Moleworth, Middlesex, who denies the charge.

Alison Chadwick, of Old Manor Drive, Whitton, Dene, Essex, vanished on June 22, 1974. Her body was found in February last year, dumped in a sack eight miles away.

A woman neighbour of Mr. Rogers has told the jury that she saw a girl like Alison enter his house at about 2.30 pm. She timed it by the Saturday edition of *Woman's Hour*, to which she was listening.

Georgina Hards, of Neller Road, Whitton, told the jury yesterday that she saw Alison at a sweet stall at a fête in the area at about 3.15 pm. She had said "hello" to Alison and Alison had said "hello" back. Janet Hards, in a statement, also told the jury that Alison was at the fête at about 3 pm.

Mr. Kenneth Richardson, for the prosecution, said the killing of a little girl could only be the work of someone who had a sexual motive. The trial continues today.

Bill signals end of the pint and ounce

By Our Political Staff
A Bill that signals the end of the pint, yard and ounce as everyday units of measurement in the United Kingdom and their replacement with metric measures was presented in the House of Commons yesterday.

Most of the Weights and Measures Bill is simply enabling legislation, under which the Government could abolish imperial units at some future date. The Government hopes that the power to set cut-off dates for the use of imperial units will not need to be used extensively, although there might be several starting days for metrication for different sectors.

The Government expects that, with some exceptions, the metric system will be in everyday use throughout the retail sector by 1980. Thus by then the yard will have been succeeded by the metre, the pint by the litre and the pound by the kilogram.

Before making an order discontinuing the use of particular units the Secretary of State for

Prices and Consumer Protection will consult affected interests. Britain has been changing to the international metric system since 1965, on a voluntary basis, and the system has been widely adopted in industry, education and in retail sales.

Most overseas trade is with countries that either are, or are going, metric. Only Burma, Brunei, Liberia and the two Yemen republics are not using or adopting the system.

Trade, industry and consumer organizations have told the Government that there is a great risk of confusion unless it ensures that metrication is completed in a simple and orderly fashion. There are also obligations under the EEC Treaty of Accession for general adoption of the system.

The Department of Prices and Consumer Protection has said that metrication will not necessarily involve price adjustments, although where a metric pack is a different size from the one it replaces prices may need to be rounded up or down to the nearest p.

Carshalton by-election 'comes at bad time for Labour Party' Tories confident of commuterland victory

By Penny Symon

Viewed from the elegant lawns of the "stockbrokers' Tudor" mansions at Carshalton Beeches, Surrey, the result of the parliamentary by-election on Thursday week seems far from a foregone conclusion. As a resident said: "The Conservatives are used to dealing with money. After all, they do tend to have quite a lot of it, even in these hard times, and this country needs people with that skill to get us out of our mess."

Conservative Party workers, however, are at pains to point out that although they are confident of retaining the seat they are not complacent. If any member does appear complacent he is reminded that Labour won the seat by 372 votes in the 1973 GLC election, and that Carshalton, consisting of 13 wards of the London borough of Sutton, has 11 Labour and four Conservative councillors in addition to its 12 Conservative members.

If that does not spur the complacent to work harder, party chiefs point out that the majority of Mr. Robert Carr, now Lord Carr of Hadley, dropped from 5,690 in the general election of February, 1974, to 3,638 in October of that year.

There is also the matter of Mrs Thatcher's influence on the women of Carshalton. She seemed to impress many people during her visit to support Mr. Guinness, and there were women in the shop who said, after seeing her, that they might give the Tories a try this time.

Mr. Guinness, who is 45 and a merchant banker, fights the seat for the second time. In October, he polled 11,717 votes. He keeps up a solid attack on Labour economic policies, but he seems more subdued than the Guinness who fazed a Roman candidate at the Lincoln election in 1973.

There are some Conservatives who do not care for his Monday Clubby and believe that he would damage the party's image if elected. In the Labour camp, there are some members who feel uncomfortable about Mr. Guinness's executive and moderate image.

But Mr. Guinness earns respect as a man of talent who knows the car industry well. Agassi, the Jaguar's chief executive in 1974 and last year, the campaign has been

Polling day: March 11.
Candidates: Mr. N. Forman (C), Mr. J. Hetherley (L); Mr. C. Blair (Lab). Electorate: 65,856.
General election: Mr. L. R. Carr (C), 12,538; Mr. R. P. Atterton (Lab), 13,940; Mr. E. M. Smallbone (L), 8,272; majority: 3,638.

eral election of February, 1974, to 3,638 in October of that year. To the voters of Sutton, Carshalton, the campaign seems to be moving at a leisurely pace, despite the breadneck speed with which Mr. Nigel Forman, the Conservative candidate, and his entourage conduct their canvassing.

Mr. Forman, aged 32, says that he has good credentials for national politics: he was an information officer at the Confederation of British Industry, then he joined the Conservative research department, and he was a Conservative assistant director in charge of policy coordination.

Mrs Thatcher, the Conservative leader, is due in the constituency on Friday to walk

round Mr. Hetherley, deputy leader of the party, will address a public meeting on Monday, and Lord Carr will attend an eve-of-poll rally today week.

The only difficulty is the decision by Mr. Hetherley, the former leader, to address a public meeting on Tuesday. No one seems sure who issued the invitation, but Conservatives are anxious not to respond to the decision, as the bitterness of the leadership issue.

The electioneering was well-rehearsed yesterday by Mr. Thorpe, the Liberal leader, who bounded up and down the street, greeting all with enthusiasm. "Isn't he a comic?" one woman said as he passed by, after having put on a West Country accent for the benefit of a Cornish voter.

The welcome he received was genuine and seemed to surprise some in his own camp. People came up to him spontaneously and he said to Mr. John Hetherley, aged 49, a teacher who is the Liberal candidate, that "the bus is good".

Liberals remember their 1972 by-election victory in the neighbouring Sutton and Chess constituency whenever, during this campaign, they get downhearted.

The constituency is mainly populated by commuters, although there is a little industry in central Carshalton and north Wallington. Unemployment in the Sutton and Chessward area has risen from 3,193 in February last year, to 7,048 in January this year; the number of unfilled vacancies has fallen from 1,880 last March to 625 now.

Mr. Colin Blam, aged 39, the Labour candidate, is a social workgroup computer in Tower Hamlets. A swing of 3.7 per cent is needed for Labour to capture the seat, and his supporters agree that now could not be a worse time for them to be fighting a by-election.

But Mr. Blam is working hard to convince those who complain to him about rising prices and inflation that the Government is well on the way to victory over only party that can persuade the unions to accept our policy," he tells people in the Labour stronghold in the huge St Heller council estate.

Coventry socialists back man who knows cars

From Trevor Fishlock
Coventry

Mr. Geoffrey Robinson, who is likely to be elected Labour MP for Coventry, North-west, in the by-election, there were women in the shop who said, after seeing her, that they might give the Tories a try this time.

Mr. Guinness, who is 45 and a merchant banker, fights the seat for the second time. In October, he polled 11,717 votes. He keeps up a solid attack on Labour economic policies, but he seems more subdued than the Guinness who fazed a Roman candidate at the Lincoln election in 1973.

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Polling day: Tomorrow.
Candidates: Mr. G. Robinson (Lab); Mr. J. Guinness (C); Mr. A. Leighton (L); Mr. A. Foulds (Nat Front); Mr. J. Kingsley (Read, Gummere Party); Mr. W. Gummere (Logic Party); Mr. T. Keen (Campaign for a More Prosperous Britain). Electorate: 49,247.

General election: Mr. M. Edelman (Lab), 19,205; Mr. J. Guinness (C), 11,717; Mr. A. Leighton (L), 5,798; Mrs. A. L. Whitaker (People Party), 313. Lab majority: 7,488.

steadily, unremarkable, without spark. The Liberals are making a last push and have been the hardest working party in the campaign.

Mr. Alan Leighton, the Liberal candidate, is fighting his first election. He is 44, a former *Financial Times* editor, and now a professional speaker and helping hand; an agency columnist in print and on the air.

The Liberals believe their hard work will earn them the second place in the poll. Out on the fringes are four

candidates of assorted views, including the National Front man who is still using the slogans of the 1960s about sending black people back home.

Our Political Staff writes: Conservative voters would cost at least 56,000 jobs in Coventry, devastating the city's business and commercial life and causing untold misery to its people. The Prime Minister said yesterday in a message to Mr. Robinson, Mr. Wilson said the Conservatives had shown by their votes in the Commons that they were concerned to cut the help being given by the Government to save jobs.

When the Tories had voted against the Government's assistance for British Leyland they were demanding that hundreds of thousands of men and women should lose their jobs, 33,000 of them in Coventry.

Mr. Prior, opposition spokesman on employment, said in Coventry yesterday that a defeat for the Government in Coventry would give MPs power to curb the socialist legislation being forced through Parliament.

Speaking from the cross benches, surrounded by his three remaining *Young Guard* party members, he gave an impassioned plea for a referendum on the coalition plan.

By the time the session was adjourned for the night, it became clear that Mr. Craig's call for a referendum will receive only minority support from the other Convention parties. As a result, an announcement that direct rule will be continued indefinitely will be made by the Government at Westminster later this week.

Mr. McGuinness freed: Martin McGuinness walked free from Belfast Magistrates' Court yesterday after a charge against him alleging IRA membership had been dropped (the Press Association reports).

Mr. McGuinness, a republican living in Elmwood Street, Londonderry, has been jailed twice in the Irish Republic for alleged IRA membership, but after yesterday's development he denied that he was a member.

Yard seeks to identify man in bomb blast

By Stewart Tendler

Detectives from Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad yesterday tried to trace the identity of the man injured by the bomb that exploded in Stanhope Gardens, South Kensington, on Monday evening.

The man, in his twenties, told detectives that his name was Patrick Hennessey and that he lived at an address in Stockwell, London. He was taken to hospital where he was treated for injuries.

After a day of checks and talks with the Royal Ulster Constabulary and Irish police senior officers were sure last night that the name and address they were given were false.

He was badly injured when the bomb exploded close to a parked car. There was no obvious target for the 1lb device and the police have said they do not rule out the possibility that the man was holding

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Inquiry over day throw light on solution of universe

James Wright, Editor, has been told that a new type of telescope is being developed to reveal details of events in stars and galaxies that are baffling astronomers. The first time yesterday at City College London.

Developed by the college's Space Science Laboratory, the telescope is said to be the first of its kind. It is a small, portable device that can be used in a variety of ways. It can be used to observe the sky, or it can be used to observe the Earth. It can be used to observe the sun, or it can be used to observe the moon. It can be used to observe the planets, or it can be used to observe the galaxies. It can be used to observe the universe.

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United States and elsewhere have been trying to perfect this type of X-ray telescope and camera. Indeed, the gold mirror for the first one to be launched next month by a Skylark rocket from Woomera, Australia, comes from the Marshall Space Flight Centre of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration of America.

The mirror, costing \$1m, has been polished by a method perfected by the National Physical Laboratory, Teddington, Middlesex.

The Skylark rocket with this equipment will look at Puppis A, one of the brightest super-nova in our galaxy, created by the explosion of a star four thousand years ago.

Details of the work at University College are being exchanged with American colleagues. It is hoped that the X-ray telescope will become the forerunner to a generation of equipment to be carried on the shuttle series of manned scientific spacecraft planned by the Americans.

Study of X-ray sources has become a major subject in astronomy. It is the study of the universe, stars such as Puppis A, explode to create a shockwave of gas expanding outwards and a dense star left near the site of the original body. The gases expanding outwards agitate dust particles in space to create areas with temperatures between a million and more than 10 million degrees centigrade.

Five jailed after a confession by informer

Five men were jailed at the Central Criminal Court yesterday after the confession of Maurice O'Mahoney, a former accomplice turned informer. They were arrested, and charged after statements made by Mr O'Mahoney, now serving five years' imprisonment for more than a hundred crimes.

Judge Jones, the Common Sergeant, said that Sir Carl Aarvold, the Recorder, had known more about the robbery series when sentencing Mr O'Mahoney, he would probably have imposed a longer term.

He said he accepted that Mr O'Mahoney's behaviour was worse than those he was sentencing, and added: "O'Mahoney did service to society by making a clean breast of everything and by giving the names of you and those who had committed robberies with him."

Sentenced to 14 years' imprisonment were Frank Mayhew, aged 33, of Disbury Road, Fulham, Robert Henderson, aged 31, also of Disbury Road, and Thomas Weston, aged 43, of Cleveland Square, Bayswater. Douglas Kowarth, aged 35, of Bush Court, Shepherds Bush, was to 12 years, and Albert Huxley, of Essex Road, Acton, received seven years.

The robberies involved a wages snatch at Greenford, Middlesex, robbery at a house at Radlett, Hertfordshire, attempted robbery at a Battersea warehouse, and the theft of watches from a Clerkenwell jeweller.

Survey suggests that community relations are better Most whites 'favour race law'

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

With the Race Relations Bill coming up for second reading in the Commons tomorrow, the Community Relations Commission yesterday published the results of a survey suggesting that a small majority of white people favour legislation.

A report by National Opinion Polls says that 52 per cent thought the law should be strengthened to prevent discrimination on the basis of colour. The corresponding figure for the coloured population was 67 per cent.

Mr Mark Bonham Carter, chairman of the commission, said: "On the whole, the feeling that politicians need not be too apprehensive about positive measures. When some people speak for the silent majority, this is incorrect on the basis of this report. They speak for a vociferous minority."

Detailed interviews were conducted with about a thousand whites and a thousand "coloured" people in England during 1974 and 1975.

In 1959, 16 per cent of a sample thought that feelings between whites and coloured people were getting better, compared with 32 per cent in the new survey. Those who thought that feelings were getting worse fell in the same period from 44 per cent to 20 per cent.

The two samples were asked: "Generally, do you think people coming to live in this country should adopt the customs existing here, or should they continue to live with their own customs and way of life?"

The report says: "The white sample wanted newcomers to adopt. Sixty-two per cent said 'adopt English customs' and 21 per cent said 'some modification'. Only 14 per cent said 'keep their own customs'. The 'coloured' sample's opinions were not so very different. Only 20 per cent said 'keep their own customs' while 37 per cent said 'some modification' and 39 per cent said 'adopt English customs'. However, a higher percentage of the 'coloured' 16-24-year-olds (28 per cent) 'keep their own customs'. West Indians were considerably more in favour of adopting English customs (55 per cent) than Asians (29 per cent)."

"Another question put the issue more squarely: 'Overall, do you think it better if people of different races all live together in the same area, or if people of each race live in their own separate areas?'"

"The vast majority of the 'coloured' sample said they wished to integrate rather than segregate, compared with just over half the white sample. A third of the white sample said living apart was preferable to living together, but it was noticeable that young white people were more in favour of living together (75 per cent) than their elders."

Some of my Best Friends... A report on race relations attitudes (Community Relations Commission, 45p).

Second chance for children

A call for more initiatives from further education bodies to give a second chance to children of West Indian and Asian origin was made yesterday by the Community Relations Commission.

Dr Alan Little, head of the reference and technical services division, said the educational performance of those children, and particularly of those of West Indian origin, was lower than that of the indigenous population and even of poor whites.

He was introducing a report that emphasizes the need to give first priority to dealing with the inequality faced by ethnic minorities in education, in the job market, in trying to train as professionals.

Dr Little said many black youngsters were leaving school not equipped for employment in a shrinking labour market in which they faced discrimination.

"You have a lot of disappointed, depressed people," he said. He agreed that black youngsters born here were in revolt against the shift work that their fathers did as immigrants.

A Second Chance: Further Education in Multicultural Areas (Community Relations Commission, £1.55).

Fife Region announces 9 per cent rate rise

Fife Regional Council, which is Labour controlled, yesterday announced a 9 per cent increase in the domestic rate. The two large districts of Kirkcaldy and Dunfermline have still to announce their own rates, which will be added to the regional rate, but Mr Alan McLure, finance convener of the region, predicted that the districts would not be announcing large increases.

That means that in the coming financial year Fife ratepayers should be paying, at most, only about £1.15 in the pound, taking both region and district rates together. The regional rate will go up from 86p to 93p; the domestic water rate will stay at 8p.

Mr McLure admitted that the region had exceeded the Government's expenditure guidelines of £50m by £12.6m. But he announced reductions of a fifth in the amount allocated to the maintenance of buildings and a quarter on printing, post, telephones and so on; a drastic reduction in the amount to be spent on courses and conferences; and a cut of two-fifths in expenditure on informal education.

Northampton rise: Northampton Borough Council announced that its rates are to be increased by 11.7 per cent. When they are added to county council and Anglian Water Authority charges, ratepayers will face a total levy of 97.5p in the pound, an overall increase of 18.3 per cent.

In brief

Thatcher speech 'an insult'

The Conservative policy of seeking an accommodation with the unions was an insult to the intelligence and blatant electioneering, Mr John Grant, Parliamentary Secretary for Overseas Development, said yesterday (our Political Staff writes).

He told a group of union officials at Cudham Hall, Kent, "Mrs Thatcher's union love-in is not far short of political pornography".

Scotland's legal system inquiry

The Prime Minister announced yesterday a royal commission of inquiry into the Scottish legal profession and court system. The membership will be published later.

Mr Wilson has also extended the Royal Commission for England and Wales announced on February 12 to cover the legal profession in Northern Ireland. One Northern Ireland member will be added to the commission.

Church to be arcade

St Michael's Church, Stamford, Lincolnshire, built in 1836, is to be turned into a shopping arcade with 10 shops on each side. The upper gallery will become a restaurant.

Boy accused of murder

A boy, aged 13, accused of the murder of a girl of 19 was sent for trial at Nottingham Crown Court by magistrates at Mansfield yesterday.

Cure during suspension

Arts Reporter

National Council for Drama is to be set up, along with recommended in the Indian Foundation report, on the stage, last month.

It represents an important move of the inquiry under Mr John Vaisey because the first time that Equity, actors' union, has joined drama and training establishments in contributing to the inquiry for the profession.

The council is expected to consist of six representatives from Equity, the employers' National Committee, and independent television companies and the conference drama schools, as well as others from the Department of Education and Science, local authority associations, the Training Services Agency, educational establishments with an interest in drama other than schools, and the Arts.

Professor Vaisey said he will be acting chairman until appointment of an independent chairman; the council is to be set up in the next few weeks. It will concern itself with the recognition of drama, the size of the training, financial support for training, and in-service training.

Toledo name dropped in reshuffle

By Peter Waymark, Motoring Correspondent

In a rationalization of the Triumph small car range, announced today by Leyland Cars, all models will carry the name Dolomite and use the present Dolomite bodyshell. The Toledo name and bodyshell are being dropped but the engine will power a new model, the Dolomite 1300.

The Triumph 1500 TC is replaced by a Dolomite 1500, in basic and HL (high life) versions, giving a choice of trim levels. The present Dolomite becomes the 1850 HL, while the two-litre Dolomite Sprint continues under the same name.

The new range will be introduced during the next few months, the larger-engined cars reaching dealers almost at once and the Dolomite 1300 replacing the Toledo between May and June. Leyland hopes the changes will reduce production costs.

Equipment has been improved, with head restraints, laminated windscreen, and radio aerials and speakers becoming standard. The smaller-engined cars are fitted with the Dolomite front suspension to improve ride and handling.

Despite the changes in specification, prices have not been increased.

Love to close schools' own TV service in Glasgow

Glenloch Gossling

Glasgow District Council has asked today to approve closure of Glasgow's closed circuit television service to schools from June. The move, expected to save £150,000 in coming year, has caused objections, including a 100-signature petition.

Signatories include Dr Kenneth Ben, chairman of the Glasgow Educational Closed Circuit Television Association, who said yesterday that the move, which is carried by through old tramway, was famous as a pioneer local authority educational vision. It was introduced 11 years ago, when Glasgow had a shortage of teachers.

It is now argued that there are more teachers and, as Glasgow is only part of Strathclyde, it would be too costly to run the system throughout the region.

Details of the service say it cost £60,000 to close, but they produce 130 programmes a year, against the

combined output of BBC and independent television for the Scottish syllabus of only six. They also say that £3m of public money has already been spent.

Another battle to save a local television service is under way at Swindon, where the nation's only local television station has been financed by BMT since October, 1972.

BMT said it would finance Swindon Viewpoint until next July, the termination date of its original licence, although it has since been extended for three years.

Sixty-two local organisations signed a petition to the Government and the Amman committee earlier this year, recommending that the service should enter a "second stage" financed by a consortium of national and local government and other sources.

The Home Office has said it hopes alternative finance can be found but details have to be agreed. It is hoped that half the annual running costs of £60,000 will come from local industry.

Keith urges council rents

Mr Keith, the Shadow Minister for Housing, said in an article published today in the National Federation of Building Employers' journal, he said he would need to cut public housing rents in any case the Labour Government to council rents.

As long as local authority houses are subsidised by taxpayers and ratepayers to the extent they are, taxation will be excessive, and the desire of many people to own their own houses will be unmet because they have a authority bargain.

A raising of rents would lead to much more building, better occupation and more of sheltered accommodation, but overall less building, because private operators "do it better, do it cheaply and there are no social problems".

Daughters given doped ice cream

Roy Jones, aged 34, who gave his two small daughters drugged ice cream after his wife had left him for another man, was given a two-year jail sentence, suspended for two years, at the Central Criminal Court yesterday for attempting to murder them.

Mr Jones, of Palewell Road, St Paul's, Kent, was told by Mr Justice Croom-Johnson that he hoped the Family Division would not deny him access to the children.

Priests tackled drunken robber

Two Roman Catholic priests tackled a drunken armed Irish robber at their home, it was stated at St Albans Crown Court, Hertfordshire, yesterday. One of them chased him around a bedroom and down some stairs and buried a flowerpot at him.

Noel Kelliher, aged 24, pleaded guilty to robbery, wounding Father Patrick Bailey and assaulting Father William Hughes. He was jailed for three years.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT INDEPENDENCE IN MEDICINE IS REALLY ALL ABOUT?

1. More than 8 people out of every 10 (82%) believe in the right to pay for private medicine?

TRUE	FALSE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. On average, a part-time Consultant works practically the same hours for the National Health Service as a full-time Consultant does?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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3. Pay beds in NHS hospitals will contribute £40 million annually to the financially-stretched National Health Service?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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4. Despite the grave concern of the Medical Profession, the Government intends to introduce legislation on private medicine in advance of the findings of the Royal Commission on Health?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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It's all true! Which may well make you wonder exactly what the Government is doing. After all, phasing out pay beds doesn't make financial sense. It won't increase the time Consultants can devote to NHS patients. And the vast majority of the public don't want freedom of choice interfered with. What's more phasing out of pay beds won't even help ease NHS waiting lists.

Mrs. Castle's Department has said "It is not possible to confirm that waiting time for a consultation will be reduced and the waiting-time for admission will shorten when pay beds are phased out."

A GOOD JOB YOU'VE GOT BUPA

PATIENTS BEFORE POLITICS

A doctor's loyalty is to his patients. That's why the Medical Profession has always shown itself to be completely opposed to any political suggestion that the patient's freedom of choice should be tampered with. Such suggestions are rife today. The issue at stake is not just one of professional freedom but also of patient freedom.

This statement has been issued by BUPA in support of the Campaign for Independence in Medicine; in the interests of BUPA subscribers and the interests of the public at large.

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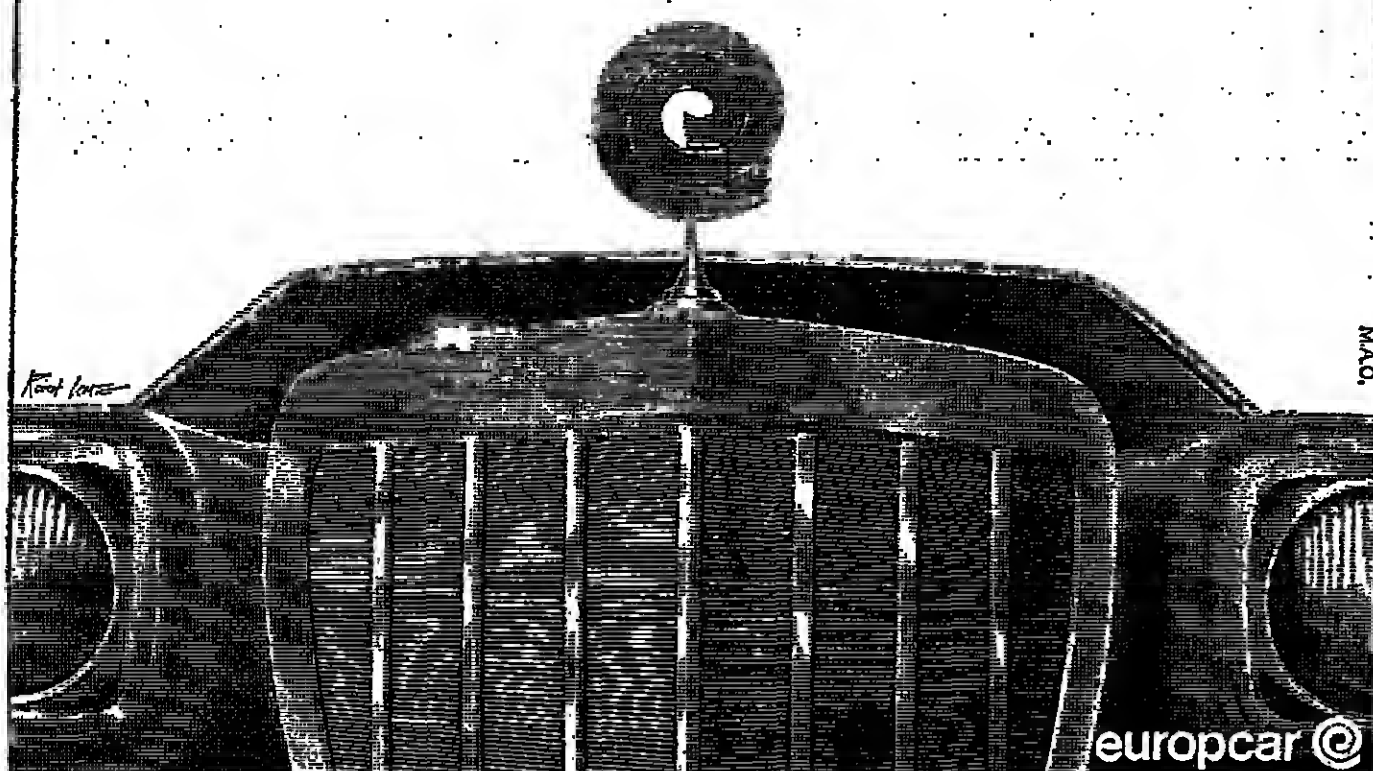
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OVERSEAS Col Gaddafi invited to see situation in Sahara

Rabat, March 2.—King Hassan of Morocco has invited Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, to come here to see the situation in the Western Sahara for himself, according to a press report here.

The former Spanish territory has been handed over to Morocco and Mauritania, but the Polisario National Front—backed by Libya and Algeria—is opposing the take-over.

An unofficial text of King Hassan's message, published in the pro-Government newspaper *Moroc Soir*, said the King had received a letter from Colonel Gaddafi over the weekend containing "certain paragraphs requiring a reply and others that are to be simply rejected".

The King claimed that in 1973 the Polisario movement in the Sahara was created by "the communist and progressive wing of the Spanish Army and Administration".

The King added, according to the unofficial text, that he had proof and documents that demonstrated "irrefutably" that the Sahara was to be the springboard for a "revolutionary movement manipulated by the Polisario and certain Spanish communist officers, as happened in Portugal".

He agreed with Colonel Gaddafi that the situation in the Sahara was "explosive", but insisted that "the danger resulted from Algerian intervention".

He invited the colonel to Morocco "so you can see the Sahara situation for yourself and so that you can distinguish objectively between the true and the false".

The monarch expressed the hope that Colonel Gaddafi would work to make Algeria "and the pawns it manipulates" see reason again.

Our Cairo Correspondent writes: Hopes for an early solution to the Algerian-Moroccan conflict over the Western Sahara seemed remote today after Mr Mahmoud Riad, the Arab League's secretary, reported that both sides were sticking to their positions.

Mr Riad, who returned here after an attempt at mediation between Algeria, Morocco and Mauritania to settle the Sahara dispute, told reporters that he found the three North African states adamant. What was important now was to prevent the political differences from turning into an armed conflict.

Moroccan and Algerian forces have clashed in the territory before Spain left it.

In spite of this attitude, the leaders of the three countries assured him that they would not resort to force. "But a peaceful solution cannot be reached within a short period and it is the duty of the Arab brothers to exert intensive efforts towards this end", Mr Riad added.

Our Madrid Correspondent writes: The official who was in charge of the Spanish Sahara under General Franco has called Spain's departure from the former colonial territory a "ruse".

Señor Antonio Carro Martínez, Minister of the Presidency until a few weeks after Franco's death, made the remark in a speech in Madrid last night.

He added, however, that "Spain managed to decolonise the territory in miraculously favourable conditions above all when compared with the enormous cost of decolonisation which was borne by the great colonial nations, and also when we consider the unfavourable local and international implications of the Sahara".

Ultimate control over Saharan affairs came under the ministry which Señor Carro headed at the time of King Hassan's "Green March".



Governor George Wallace of Alabama campaigning for yesterday's Massachusetts

Massachusetts primary tests the popularity of Mr Wallace

From Patrick Brogan
Washington, March 2

The people of Massachusetts are voting in their presidential primary elections today. It is cold, it is wet, there is snow in the mountains and two or three Democratic candidates for the presidency have reached the seat of the road. Eight Democrats are running in Massachusetts and several will be out of hope and money tomorrow.

The conservative Democratic candidates are Governor George Wallace of Alabama, Senator Henry Jackson of Washington and Mr Jimmy Carter, former Governor of Georgia. This is the first time Mr Wallace has tested his popularity outside the south since 1972 and he is certain to do well among those most vociferously opposed to him.

If he wins, which is possible because of the over-abundance of other candidates, it will be a very nasty shock to the Democratic Party. Massachusetts has been considered the most liberal state in the union, the only one which gave Senator McGovern a majority in 1972.

Senator Jackson and Mr Carter are fighting for the middle-class and respectable conservative vote. Mr

Carter won the New Hampshire primary last week with 28.37 per cent of the vote and hopes to beat Mr Jackson today.

His victory now seems rather less impressive than it did at the time. The final figures have just been released and show that Mr Morris Udall, the Congressman from Arizona who came second, won 22.71 per cent of the vote, six points less than Mr Carter, who failed to break through the magic 30 per cent.

It also turns out that President Ford won less than half the Republican vote, 49.39 per cent, to Mr Ronald Reagan's 47.96 per cent.

Mr Jackson predicts victory, on the strength of a strong organization and a long and hard campaign in Massachusetts. Mr Udall does not say that he hopes to win but may, because he represents the liberals and all other Democratic candidates of that persuasion are conspicuously weak, while there are three strong conservatives.

The lesser liberals are Senator Birch Bayh of Indiana, who got 15.19 per cent in New Hampshire, Mr Fred Harris, former Senator from Oklahoma, who got 10.76 per cent, and Mr Sargent Shriver, who got 8.19 per cent. A candidate must win over 15 per cent in

Massachusetts to a delegates to the national convention, who are proportionately.

The Massachusetts is also one of the states where Mr Shriver and Mr Bayh may be forced to run on a shoestring, generating much loyalty in every America.

The eighth Democratic, Milton S. Eisenhower, is in a position as a "favourite" in a few states along the way. Bayh may be forced to take the same course.

Shriver is a millionaire pay for his own campaign. The Vermont purely symbolic and vote nothing more present popularity. A of the various candidates, 12 Democratic and 11 can delegates to the conventions will be later.

Massachusetts is a delegates to the 11 convention and 43 smaller Republican, so the results are important than those Hampshire, where matters importance effect on later ones.

Whites accused by tribes at Namibia talks

From Our Own Correspondent
Johannesburg, March 2

Constitutional talks on the future of Namibia (South-West Africa) resumed in Windhoek today between delegations from 12 ethnic groups in the territory, several of whom have expressed fears that time is running out for a peaceful solution.

One delegate gave a warning that unless a multiracial constitution was introduced within a matter of months, there would be a serious danger of the outlawed South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) imposing a dictatorship. A caucus of six tribal delegations has accused the white delegation of manipulating conference procedures to create delay.

The white delegation argues that while the conference should avoid delay, it should

also avoid hurriedly accepting a draft constitution which will prove ineffective or be unacceptable to large sections of the population.

The constitutional talks are sponsored by the South African Government, which has been given until the end of August, by the United Nations Security Council, to give up its control of the territory.

Chief Klemens Kapuno, the leader of the Herero tribe, is expected to introduce tomorrow a draft constitution which will contain provisions for a multiracial society.

Meanwhile, recommendations have been put forward by sub-committees that black wages should equal those of whites within six years, that pass laws should be scrapped and that there should be no discrimination in pensions or job opportunities.

Rhodesia's border patrol problem

Continued from page 1

In Rhodesia, the dense bush and rugged terrain make it ideal country for guerrillas and the thinly-stretched security forces have an almost impossible task in trying to prevent infiltration.

Their problems are compounded by the local African population being ethnically related to the people living in the Mozambique side of the border, who cross freely back and forth into Rhodesia. The people are also strong supporters of the Zimbabwe African National Union (Zanu), the most militant of the African nationalist organizations whose leader, the Rev Ndabaningi Sithole, comes from the Chinyaduma region near Chinganga.

Meanwhile, the internal faction of the African National Council (ANC) led by Mr Joshua Nkomo was today considering the new proposals submitted by Mr Ian Smith at yesterday's session of the constitutional talks.

Several ANC members have expressed considerable interest in the proposals, which are understood to be concerned with the difficult problem of the franchise.

However, observers in Salisbury are sceptical of suggestions that the proposals could lead to a breakthrough.

A leading member of the Conservative Party, Mr Eddon Griffiths, MP for Ebury St Edmunds, is to visit Rhodesia shortly for talks with white and black political leaders. Mr Griffiths, who is the Opposition spokesman on foreign affairs, is due here on March 11 and will stay

about five days. He will also visit South Africa, where he is to have talks with Mr Vorster, the Prime Minister.

In another development today, the Rhodesian Government issued a formal denial of a report in the *Daily Mirror* last Friday that Rhodesian soldiers had been involved in a massacre of some 60 Africans in the Mozambique border area last October. The allegations were made by a Rhodesian Army deserter, Mr Tom McCarthy, a 22-year-old Londoner.

Mr Jack Gaylard, Secretary to the Rhodesian Cabinet, also called the Foreign and Commonwealth Office asking for the facts to be brought to the attention of the House of Commons, where two questions have been tabled about the allegations.

Mr Whitlam snubs Sir John at Husain welcoming

Canberra, March 2.—King Husain and Queen Alia of Jordan arrived in Canberra today for an eight-day state visit in Australia.

The king, the first Arab head of state to come to Australia, was met by Sir John Kerr, the Governor-General, Mr Fraser, the Prime Minister, Mr Andrew Peacock, the Foreign Minister, and Mr Gough Whitlam, leader of the Opposition.

Although Sir John performed the formal introductions, Mr Whitlam ignored him as he shook hands with the king in accordance with his recent declaration that he would never have anything to do with the governor-general, who dismissed his government last November 11.

Mr Whitlam also refused an invitation from Sir John to

an official dinner for King Husain at Government House tonight. However, Mr Whitlam will join Mr Fraser in a toast to the king at a parliamentary luncheon tomorrow, at which Sir John will not be present.

King Husain, who is accompanied by Mr Zaid Rifai, his Prime Minister, will begin a round of talks on Middle East diplomacy and trade with Mr Fraser and other ministers tomorrow.

His visit is part of an extensive overseas diplomatic initiative which also will take him to the United States.—A.P.

Manila, March 2.—King Husain left for Sydney this morning after a 36-hour state visit marked by the establishment of diplomatic ties between Jordan and the Philippines.—Agence France-Presse.

Philippines kidnappers I envoy see Dorset woman

Manila, March 2.—A Philippines Government envoy has been allowed to see the British missionary, Miss Euphine Diment, by her Muslim kidnappers on the southern Philippine island of Basilan.

The emissary who returned today to Zamboanga City, 500 miles south of Manila, said she was alive and well and had asked him to give her some food. However, Colonel Cirilo, the local police chief, said the envoy was allowed to see her only briefly.

The kidnappers, led by a man who calls himself Commander Jikiri, are demanding the release of two Muslim rebels, including a cousin of Jikiri, detained for alleged involvement in the kidnap of a Japanese woman last year.

The emissary reported that Miss Diment, who works for

the Summer Institute of Linguistics, is based at Hu Beach, California, appears fideor that the military ties were doing every secure her release, according to Colonel Bueno.

The colonel said that Diment's landlady, a Muslim named Solana, was also being held by the kidnappers. He had to be taken with her was seized at gunpoint ferry boat on Saturday.

There has been no confirmation of whether nappers belong to the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), which for 41 months has been in armed struggle for Muslim rule in the Mindanao. Authorities, however, say Jikiri's group is associated with the MNLF.

OVERSEAS

Secret information on Lockheed bribes may soon be sent to other countries by US

Washington, March 2 — Information detailing allegedly made to officials by the Lockheed Corporation may be made available by the State Department, the Justice Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, according to sources here. The SEC is expected to deliver to the Japanese Government, as soon as the SEC has concluded its negotiations with Lockheed.

Mr. Roderick Hills, chairman of the SEC, said in an interview with The New York Times that he expected to receive a new request for information from the Japanese shortly and to be in a position to comply with it. A final decision, however, will probably have to be made by President Ford, who according to Mr. Ron Messer, the White House spokesman, is completing plans for the establishment of a special committee to investigate Lockheed's bribery by multinational corporations.

Lockheed's difficulties with the SEC have forced the company to delay its annual shareholders' meeting three times. Lockheed hopes to win the shareholders' approval for a plan to offer shares to its lenders in order to reduce outstanding loans. This could strengthen the company's financial position and enable it to

achieve a position where it could look forward to repaying its government-guaranteed loans of \$195m (£97.5m) by 1978.

Pressure mounts in Congress for the loans to be ended unless Lockheed makes full public disclosure about the bribes. The SEC now appears to be willing to reach an agreement with Lockheed that would not force the company to make a full public disclosure.

The sources note, however, that the five-man commission of the SEC remains divided on this point. At a minimum, it is said, the SEC will demand Lockheed agreement to the details of the bribes being handed confidentially to the foreign governments.

Our Rome Correspondent writes: General Duilio Fasoli, a former chief of staff, has been notified that he is under suspicion in connection with the sales of Lockheed aircraft to Italy. This does not amount to a charge.

Dr. Mario Martella, a Rome magistrate, is investigating allegations of bribery in connection with a government contract for 14 Hercules C130 long-range transport aircraft. Justice sources said that General Fasoli had earlier declared that bribery would have been pointless because the Hercules was the only aircraft of its kind on the market and the choice was a foregone conclusion.

Rabbis seek Vatican recognition of Israel

From Eric Marsden
Jerusalem, March 2

Israel's two chief rabbis today sought the Roman Catholic church's recognition of Israel and its help in bringing persecuted Jews from the Soviet Union and the Arab countries to Jerusalem as immigrants.

Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren, of the Ashkenazi community, and Chief Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, his Sephardic colleague, were receiving a delegation from the Vatican's commission on religious relations with Judaism, which is here for a meeting of the Jewish-Catholic religious dialogue sponsored by the Holy See.

Rabbi Goren told the delegates that he was amazed that the Vatican, which was an independent European state, had not recognized Israel at a time when it was important to eliminate animosity between religious groups. He urged the Catholic delegates to support the right to free migration of Jews from the Soviet Union, Syria and Iraq.

Father De Contenson, the secretary of the Vatican mission, told the Jewish religious leaders that the Vatican had dissociated itself from two anti-Zionist canons in the communiqué agreed by church leaders and Islamic officials at the recent meeting in Tripoli between Catholics and Muslims.

A communiqué on the Jewish-Catholic dialogue, which began yesterday, is expected later this week. Although leaders on both sides should concentrate on religious issues and avoid politics, two resolutions of a semi-political nature have been put forward.

Father Marcel Dubois, of Jerusalem, has called on the Vatican to recognize Israel, and has denounced opposition to Zionism as "anti-Semitism in disguise". While Father Edward Flannery, of Washington, has said that the modern state of Israel is the political manifestation of the deep messianic core of Judaism.

Jewish participants in the dialogue are under pressure to move towards closer relations with the Christian churches. Some of the Christian leaders are hoping for a declaration by the Jews that Christians of today bear no vicarious guilt for past persecutions of Jews. This, they feel, would match the Vatican's declaration of 10 years ago that the modern state of Israel should not be held guilty of the persecutions of the apostles and the church.

The fact that the meeting is in Jerusalem has been welcomed by the Israelis taking part.

How America is getting tough over sex discrimination

Patricia Sullivan Lindh, one of the founders of Women in Politics, and Special Assistant for Women to President Ford, contributes this week's guest column.



Nearly two hundred years ago a group of distinguished men gathered together to formulate the Constitution of the United States. Although no ladies were invited to take part in these proceedings, several were far from silent on the subject.

Abigail Adams, whose husband, John, was the second President of the United States, wrote her husband, "In the new code of laws... ladies will not hold ourselves bound by any laws in which we have no voice or representation." John Adams' response was laughter.

On the eve of our Bicentennial the laughter has certainly subsided, but the attitude which gave rise to it has not. No matter that it has gone underground, or into the cupboard; it still exists.

This attitude is best illustrated by a game of semantics which is often played with a woman's personality. The bright young woman on her way up in an organization is characterized as "pushy, ruthless" and, horror of horrors, "unfeminine". But a bright young man is described as a "go getter", a "hard driver" and a "man's man".

Or, to continue the game, how would you rate these descriptive adjectives on the gender scale?

Men have presence, women are domineering. Men are forceful, women are shrill. Men are judicious, women aren't. Men are firm, women are stubborn. Men are brilliant, women are just showing off.

It is no wonder that we, as women, have an identity problem.

In recent years a plethora of Bills, laws, rules and regulations have been promulgated by the United States Government to remove discrimination based on sex from every facet of American life which can be covered by legislation. In addition, the government has set up numerous committees, commissions and bureaux to deal with these matters. Among these are the United States Commission on Civil Rights, and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

The Commission on Civil Rights is essentially a research agency of the government. Its function is to document areas of discrimination and to direct the attention of the entire governmental apparatus toward the resolution of the problems.

The Women's Rights Programme Unit of the Commission on Civil Rights oversees the implementation of the commission's jurisdiction over sex discrimination, and is the agency which has the responsibility for the Women's Rights Unit of the Executive Order 11246 which directly prohibits discrimination by corporations, organizations or institutions receiving federal contracts. As a direct result of this, the concept of affirmative action was developed. Affirmative action is the policy of Executive Order 11246 which applies to all federal contractors employing 15 or more persons and/or with 50,000 dollars' worth of federal contracts. The carrot in this arrangement is, of course, the federal contract. The stick is the withholding or termination of the contract.

The commission's current and planned programme dealing with sex discrimination issues includes a number of projects. The first five volumes (of seven) of the 1974 Federal Civil Rights Enforcement Effort report have been published, evaluating the Federal Government's

efforts to enforce existing anti-sex and race discrimination laws and to end sex and race discrimination within the government itself. The report's inclusion of sex discrimination represents an innovation in the commission's reports.

The commission has also published a study of sex and race discrimination in mortgage finance lending practices, entitled Mortgage Money: Who Gets It? and a study of minority and female-owned business participation in federal and state government procurement programmes, called Minorities and Women as Government Contractors. An investigation of the position of women and minorities in labour unions is near completion.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has authority to investigate complaints of discriminatory practices in employment, to conciliate and to recommend the initiation of civil action by the Department of Justice.

Another governmental bureau which has a direct responsibility for enforcing anti-discrimination practices in employment is the Office of Federal Contract Compliance located in the Department of Labour. The Office of Executive Order 11246 which directly prohibits discrimination by corporations, organizations or institutions receiving federal contracts. As a direct result of this, the concept of affirmative action was developed. Affirmative action is the policy of Executive Order 11246 which applies to all federal contractors employing 15 or more persons and/or with 50,000 dollars' worth of federal contracts. The carrot in this arrangement is, of course, the federal contract. The stick is the withholding or termination of the contract.

The commission's current and planned programme dealing with sex discrimination issues includes a number of projects. The first five volumes (of seven) of the 1974 Federal Civil Rights Enforcement Effort report have been published, evaluating the Federal Government's

Another reason a simple legal prohibition against discrimination is very difficult to enforce is that the burden of proof is on an individual discriminated against to prove discrimination. Even if the total employment picture of an employer makes it clear that discrimination is practised, it is still very difficult to prove it in an individual case. Long-standing attitudes and habits are also hard to overcome.

The affirmative action concept was developed in response to these difficulties and provides in its barest essentials that employers must:

Analyze their employment situation by occupation and level in order to determine the areas in which they are deficient in employment of minorities and women, taking into account their availability. Set goals and timetables for correction of the deficiencies, taking into account availability of qualified minorities and women and vacancy rates. Widened their recruitment efforts in order to reach minorities and women.

There is no requirement that employers hire women or minorities who are less qualified than available white males and no requirement that they meet their goals if they can show that a good faith effort was unsuccessful in reaching the goals.

As always, the pen is mightier than the sword. The law is clear, the enforcement of the law is somewhat obscure. It is my hope that the moral imperative generated by International Women's Year will not only highlight the problems but initiate their solutions.

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Witness contradicts first testimony

San Francisco, March 2 — The jury in the trial of Hearst on bank robbery today produced a surprise when the witness who said he had seen Hearst scrambling to get out of the car after the robbery, said he had not seen him do so.

The testimony of Mr. Zigurd, a store owner, contradicted evidence given by Miss Hearst that she had never seen any bullets or clips from the raid on the Hibernia Bank in April 1974.

Miss Hearst is accused of the raid organized by her husband, the Symphonist, in the San Francisco area. She said that she was forced to get out of the car and that the car was not hers.

Riots on anniversary of Kenya MP's death

From Our Correspondent
Nairobi, March 2

Riot police used tear gas and batons to disperse university students after demonstrations in Nairobi today on the anniversary of the death of Mr. Joseph Karuki, the popular MP, whose murder remains an officially unsolved crime.

Mr. Karuki was seen leaving a Nairobi hotel with a senior police officer. He was not seen again until his body was found beside a lonely road in the hills outside the city.

Today, armed riot police formed a cordon in front of the Roman Catholic cathedral where thousands attended a requiem mass. They included Mr. Karuki's three widows.

After the service, students jeered and taunted the riot police who chased them using tear gas. No casualties were reported.

Earlier today, students at the

Kenya University campus, which is separate from the main university, boycotted lectures in protest against the arrest of 10 students by plainclothes police last night. Tear gas was also used to disperse the demonstrators.

There was a further "mountain" demonstration at the university campus last night lasting several hours, which ended peacefully.

A parliamentary select committee has found that those responsible for Mr. Karuki's death must have been known to the police. His death, which began the beginning of a period of political unrest. Five other MPs are either serving prison sentences or are in detention on President Kenyatta's orders.

Mr. Karuki was regarded as a "vocal politician" who frequently criticized government policies. His murder has produced an unprecedented public reaction which, to judge from today's events, has not died down.

Teachers to be issued with weapons

From Our Own Correspondent
Jerusalem, March 2

Teachers in Israel are to be issued with guns to guard their pupils against terrorist attacks. A preliminary course in marksmanship for instructors who will later teach the teachers has been announced by the Ministry of Education.

The course is being planned at the Wingate Physical Fitness Training Centre, named after the British paratrooper who helped to build Israel's future army.

The aim is to ensure that each school, kindergarten and college will have a nucleus of men and women capable of using a gun in case of attack.

Anti-Teng drive extends to industry and transport

From David Bonavia
Peking, March 2

The present campaign against Mr. Teng Hsiao-ping, the Deputy Prime Minister, is beginning to affect industry and transport.

Numerous wall posters have appeared on railway stations, denouncing Mr. Teng as a "bourgeois" and "reactionary". The posters at the universities which do name Mr. Teng become rapidly more offensive and personal. However, today's article in the party journal appeared to hint that he might save himself by changing his policies.

Egypt buys three military hovercraft from Britain

By Henry Stanhope
Defence Correspondent

President Sadat has bought three military hovercraft from Britain at a cost of more than £1.5m for a patrol work with the Egyptian Navy.

A small team of Egyptian pilots, engineers and crew are now being trained to use them by the British Hovercraft Corporation at Lowestoft in Suffolk.

But the chance of a much bigger Anglo-Egyptian deal for fitting Rolls-Royce Spey engines to Egypt's Russian-built MIG-21 aircraft has been abandoned after a feasibility study by Rolls-Royce.

The study found that altering the MIG-21 to take the Spey engine would make the project too expensive. Now according to the authoritative

Jordanian chief for United Arab Emirates forces

Abu Dhabi, March 2 — Major General Awad al-Khalidi, a Jordanian officer, has been appointed the first Chief of Staff of the United Arab Emirates' armed forces, officials said here today.

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March 2 — Seven members of an international

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1. *Chlorophyll a* and *Chlorophyll b* were determined by the method of Arar and Collins (1971) using a Shimadzu 1010 spectrophotometer. The concentration of chlorophyll was expressed in $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ of the sample.

... ..

Spanish foreign minister recently had a fairly cordial
pation yesterday from both
Callaghan and Mr. Wilson.
re is no need for anyone in
Labour Party to get excited
it that. Whatever one thinks
the pace of change in
since General Franco's
h, there can be no doubt
the direction of it. Nor
there be any doubt that
r Arelliza, along with his
a Iribarne, has had a great
e in determining that direc-
Both are former dignitaries,
he Franco regime who took
distances from it in its last
Borja. Both are now active
in European capitals. Both
convicted of Spain's Euro-
pean destiny, and convinced
an ultimately be realized only
Spain becomes a full mem-
ber of the European Community.
I know that this will be pos-
sible only if Spain becomes a
ocracy in a sense that other
members of the Community can
recognize. Both would probably
prefer that liberal democracy is
not the political system
suited to an industrial
country such as Spain is now
becoming.

Senator Arelliza would hardly
maintain that Spain is a democracy
at this moment. What he can
possibly say is that he and

people of Tyneside are understandably annoyed at the poor behaviour of British Rail towards their rapid transit system which, on completion in 1979, will be the most ambitious and up-to-date public transport project in the country. When the scheme was first announced on British Rail were expected to join Tyneside in procuring, planning, and building but declined to do so—presumably as it turned out, because Tyneside have been unable to go ahead on their own terms. A fresh young team, unhampered by the traditions and practices of the conventional railway, the "metro" will run lightweight trains unique to the country, and sophisticated signalling and ticketing procedures, unknown on British Rail, and closely integrated with the city's bus and ferry services. For the first time, the new Tyneside Metro will have a fleet of its twenty-four million passengers, track on which British Rail now operates unattractive, sparsely used passenger services that would have been abandoned long ago, were it not for the prospect of the metro. For unofficial action by the railway unions the railways would have new withdrawn from the agreement last year to end over this track for the

Señor Fraga hope to make it one within the next two years. He cannot unfortunately say with certainty that that is the policy of the government as a whole, for the prime minister in his speech to the Cortes on January 28 was deplorably vague on all the key points. He left it to Señor Fraga, in an interview with *The Times* the next day, to make it clear that there would be universal suffrage and full freedom of assembly. Such a pledge is clearly less binding on the government.

There appears to be a distribution of tasks: Señor Arias has to reassure the right-wingers still entrenched in many positions of power, while Señor Fraga, and the Aristizábal mass, liberate opinion abroad. Someone, sooner or later, is going to be disappointed.

Meanwhile, Señor Aristizábal clearly needs and deserves encouragement from other European governments. That does not mean he should be given a blank cheque, but fortunately he is not asking for one. If he asked for immediate negotiations for Spanish accession, the Community would have to refuse, and he would have to accept would be to deprive him of his strongest argument in pressing for real democratization against the entrenched ultras at home. But he has made it clear that he does not envisage asking

TRAINS ON TYNE

metro, which they now say they want to operate themselves.

British Rail's belated conversion is perhaps understandable in the light of probable retrenchment elsewhere, but it is difficult to see how either the public interest or the railway itself can be served by it. There is no question, so far as Tyne-side is concerned, of reverting from the metro to the existing railway, which is hopelessly uneconomic, absorbing half the County Council's public transport subsidy while carrying only 5 per cent of the passengers. Nor is operation of the metro by British Rail acting as agents regarded as feasible. This is of course done in other conurbations, and may be done in London as a result of this week's initiative by the Greater London Council, but they all have conventional railways, whereas Tyne-side will not. To operate the metro as Tyne-side propose would mean shedding the restrictive practices and cumbersome management that are dragging British Rail down; but Tyne-side must be pardoned for thinking they would be retained, and would drag the metro down.

At an eventual £200m the Tyne-side metro is a costly project that would hardly be sanctioned in

for formal negotiations before the summer of 1977, by which time, if things go according to Señor Fraga's plan, Spain will have a parliament elected by universal suffrage. That gives the Community plenty of time to indicate by what criteria Spain will be judged.

The questions to ask will be: is the government responsible to an elected authority (since there is no question of a directly elected executive), and is that authority (probably the lower house of the Cortes) the result of a free choice by all the people? The people can only exercise a free choice if there is freedom of expression and of association as well as of assembly. The present plan apparently proposes to limit freedom of association by excluding Communists. That may be the minimum safeguard which has to be offered to the right in the transitional phase, and it would probably be wrong for the Community to make an issue of it. (After all the West Germans did the same for a long time.) Yet eventually the Communists—who have substantial support among working class voters—will have to be allowed to play a normal role in Spain, rather than being kept underground. A democratic Spain will certainly be a most welcome member of the EEC.

SIDE

these stringent days, and may yet founder (possibly to the Treasury's relief) if the dispute is not happily and speedily resolved. That would be a pity, because if the metro were to fulfil the planners' expectation and carried six times as many passengers at less cost than the existing trains, it could be the most hopeful portent for many a day for railway builders' and operators in this country.

The railway unions are wrong to view the Tyneside prospect in arid terms of "hiving-off" and "balkanization of the public sector". The private interests of railwaymen are taken care of by Tyneside's guarantee of no redundancy, and the railway unions would profit from evolving a creative new partnership with a new employer. As for the theory of the thing, there was a timely reminder last week that when the Labour Party constitution calls for is not state ownership but common ownership.

Neither-board nor unions have any private rights in railway property which belongs to the public. The public most concerned in this case are the people of Tyneside, and unless it can be shown that the wider good would suffer thereby, their wishes should be promptly acceded to.

Working lady who was
braced in the street by a lion
terday was encountering a
ard that is less exotic than
was. For all their dignified
guor, lions breed like rabbits.
t the growing popularity of
irly parks has created a steady
ry of delightful cubs which
e found a ready market
ong members of the public
o want to go one better than
Alsatian. The lion on the
rthrug, or lapping a saucer
milk in the pub, or romping
the reinforced beer-run is on
way to becoming a familiar
it in the suburbs. To a lesser
nt, the same thing occurs
other wild animals.

he Working lion does not
n to have meant any harm.
done much. Indeed, it was
known in the district and
y local people would be
y to see its outings restricted.
whatever the manners of this
icular beast, and the precau-

tions taken by its owner, the species in general is not reliable and a frightened or hurt lion could make havoc in a crowded street. Some people have bought lion cubs with little idea of the risk and expense of keeping them securely once they have grown up. Many cannot afford to confine them in proper comfort in respect of space, shelter and cleanliness.

The present law puts few restraints upon the man who likes to keep wild beasts. If a member of the public is attacked it is possible to bring a civil action for damages under the Animals Act, 1971. But even if the action succeeds the owner may not be liable to pay damages for the same conditions as before. A civil action for nuisance can be brought, on the grounds that the neighbours are afraid that it might escape, or are disturbed by its midnight snarling and the troops of curious onlookers. But such actions are costly and uncertain. It is paradoxical that every dog has to have a licence

Does this not challenge us today in a way comparable to the challenge to Abraham? Is not this changed challenge the evidence of God's unchanging purpose? There will not be peace without the creative cooperation of Jew, Muslim and Christian, of Israeli and Arab.

Yours, etc.
JAMES PARKES,
Netherthorpe,
Iwerce Minster,
Blandford, Dorset.

Central London parking

From Mr Ivor Hall

Sir, I notice that the GLC are considering a tax on "large" office car parks in central London.

I am sure that private companies will reluctantly accept such a tax if the GLC at the same time will carry out the same legislation on their own free car parking spaces in their numerous buildings in central London and will also, on applying to the Government for approval, ask to impose the same tax on all individuals who enjoy the large free government car parks (and in particular, I think of Horseguards Parade which has been totally spoilt by the car park) then justice will seem to have been done.

Or we will find the Labour controlled GLC's philosophy matching that of our present Government—namely that we must "let it go".

Yours faithfully,
IVOR HALL
6 Eskine Hill,
Hamstead Garden Suburb, NW11.

As it happens a private member's Bill to introduce controls over dangerous pets is already before Parliament. It had its second reading last month and has a fair chance of becoming law; it could reasonably be given Government support. It would require an owner to ask the local authority for a licence to keep specified kinds of animals. The council would take account of the fears of the neighbours and the comfort of the beasts themselves (there would be a right of appeal for the owner to a magistrates' court). Zoos, circuses and licensed pet shops would be excluded. The categories specified, which are wide, may catch up some species that are not dangerous, but the basic form of the protection is very much what is needed. Indeed, controls of the same type might well be extended, for safari parks and circuses do not always keep their livestock in entirely satisfactory conditions.

Rural bus service

From Mr F. A. S. Wood

Sir, Mr Gabriel Roth in his article (Monday, February, 23) suggests that large (and by implication) estate owned public transport undertakings cannot provide sufficiently responsive services, and that this tendency is strengthened by the protection given to existing operators. What he does not discuss, perhaps, is the needs for continuity and stability in operating public transport.

However, when he suggests that existing operators are inflexible, the example which Mr Roth praises counters his own argument. The experimental minibus operation in Norfolk in which unpaid volunteers drove the buses was in fact initiated by the National Bus Company. We appreciate the specific needs of remote rural areas: This is just one possible answer; others are being studied.

It is true that the service is designed to complement existing services (by feeding into them) rather than to compete with them. It is open to question, though, whether the best interests of that general area would be served by the established routes to be whittled away by a number of uncoordinated local services.

Yours faithfully,
FREDDIE WOOD, Chairman,
National Bus Company,
25 New Street Square, EC4.
February 25.

From Mr Moor Hall
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 I am sure that private companies will reluctantly accept such a tax if the GLC at the same time will carry the same legislation on their own free car parking spaces in their numerous buildings in central London and will also, on application to the Government for approval, ask them to impose the same tax on all individuals who enjoy the largest free government car parks (London in particular). I think of the safeguards which have been totally spelt by the car park) then justice will seem to have been done.
 Or we will find the Labour controlled GLC's philosophy-matching that of our present Government-
 "Do as I say not as I do".
 Yours faithfully,
 JAMES HALL
 17 Erskine Hill,
 Hammersden Garden Suburb. NW11.

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25 New Street Square, EC4.
February 25.

From Mr Alexander Kitson

Sir, I wonder if I might be allowed to answer some of the points raised in the letter from the Brazilian Ambassador, published in your columns of February 27.

I would like to take up first the point he raises in his last paragraph. I am afraid the report in *The Times* of February 26, to which he refers, was not accurate. I did not mention the question of invitations to a banquet, although I mentioned to my colleagues on the National Executive Committee, in due seasonally light-hearted intervention, did.

On a more serious level, though, I did not attempt to suggest that our political system in Britain was so perfect that we want to preach to other governments. My point was that Brazil did not have the sort of government that as a member of the Labour Party, want to give the stamp of approval to, by loving the President on a state visit.

... the question of whether President Geisel was the right target for my attack, I would just say that he is the Head of State and therefore the representative of the Brazilian Government. The Ambassador said that President Geisel is

political liberalization. So far be has not shown many results. I do not think it is wise to denote liberalization when more than 60 members of the opposition party and their supporters are arrested, within a year of making his election. It seems to show that the opposition party is only allowed to function freely as long as it is ineffectual.

I might add that it is also estimated that altogether in 1978 about 1,500 persons were detained. Substantial evidence has also been forthcoming about cases of torture. I would instance just one well-known case, that of Vladimir Herzog, a journalist who died to custody after voluntarily confessing himself for interrogation. There are many other examples I could quote. I trust that these are good reasons for not wishing to have the President in this country and this is why I submitted the motion to the National Executive Committee.

Yours faithfully,
ALEX KITSON,
Member of National Executive Committee,
The Labour Party,
Transper House,
South Square, SW1.

From Mr Ian Mikardo, Labour MP
for Tower Hamlets, Bethnal Green
Doy, and others
Sir, I feel I suggest that if Presi-
dent Geisel is sincerely interested
in curbing violators of human
rights and to listening to the
broadest range of political opinion
(Brazilian) Ambassador's letter
of 27/7/77 that he should
prove his good faith by allowing
an Amnesty International misio-
nary into Brazil in the coming months.
Yours faithfully,
IAN MIKARDO,
RICHARD WAINWRIGHT,
JOAN VICKERS
Amnesty International,
British Section,
55 Theobald's Road, WC1.

From Mr Bruce Alexander
Sir, Paul Derrick in his admirable
letter of February 26 seeks to per-
suade the Labour Party to replace
its emphasis on the state ownership
of our productive resources by liv-
ing in a commitment to the
common ownership.

The notion of common ownership,
whereby as enterprise is owned
and controlled exclusively by the
people working in it, is one that
transcends the current divisions of
party politics. It is a notion already
being put into practice by many
managements of party, and hope-
fully will be seriously considered by
many more who believe that people
are capable of making decisions for
themselves, that with the power of
decision making comes the sense
of responsibility, that coordinated
self-interest leads to concern for the
community, that we are suffering
from a surfeit of paternalism—
whether from large capitalist com-
panies or centralist government?

Mr David Watkins's Industrial
Common Ownership Bill, before the
Commons for its second reading on
February 27, 1971, presents a
needed opportunity to discuss an
idea that reduces industrial con-
tamination and positively encourages
productivity.

Yours faithfully,
BRUCE ALEXANDER,
2 Queens Road,
Hastings,
East Sussex, TN11 8JL.
Stoke-on-Trent,
Staffordshire.

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East Sussex, TN11 8JL.
Stoke-on-Trent,
Staffordshire.

Sir, From Mr John Musgrove
 To, From one individual at least one
 thing seems all too clear. The
 country, hopelessly divided, con-
 fused and dispirited, is drifting
 ever faster to unprecedented
 economic and political catastrophe.
 I can no longer believe that
 salvation can be found with any of
 the political parties—still less
 through a coalition formed from
 such parties: If salvation is to be
 found it can now only be through
 certain outstanding personalities—
 individual men and women whom
 the country feels instinctively it
 can trust and whom it will follow—
 being given supreme direction of
 affairs.
 What are these personalities to
 be found? It seems to me that one
 above all others can provide the
 focus around which, as I believe,
 in a matter of hours the rest would
 coalesce—I refer to Lord Goodman.
 He has abundantly shown himself
 to possess those qualities of
 sagacity, persuasion, elasticity and
 broad-mindedness, for which our
 people cry out. Let him form a
 Government of National Emergency
 with ministers from all walks
 and spheres of public life who will
 put Britain first. The hour cries
 out for the man. Will all who think
 as I do help to swell that cry?
 Yours faithfully,
 JOHN MUSGROVE, MS,
 34 Wimpole Street, W1.

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 above all others can provide the
 focus around which, as I believe,
 in a matter of hours the rest would
 coalesce—I refer to Lord Goodman.
 He has abundantly shown himself
 to possess those qualities of
 sagacity, persuasion, elasticity and
 broad-mindedness, for which our
 people cry out. Let him form a
 Government of National Emergency
 with ministers from all walks
 and spheres of public life who will
 put Britain first. The hour cries
 out for the man. Will all who think
 as I do help to swell that cry?
 Yours faithfully,
 JOHN MUSGROVE, MS,
 34 Wimpole Street, W1.

From Mrs Geoffrey Brigstocke
Sir, Two years ago today, DC10
came to me in Paris killing 346
people, near my husband.
There have been many painful
aspects of that crash, but for me
the hardest to bear has been the
publicity given to the legal pro-
ceedings for damages.
I lost the husband to whom I had
been married 22 years; our four
children lost their father. He was
quiet, unassuming, modest; a man
of integrity, judgment, humour,
kindness and strength of character
—the sheet anchor of our family.
Who would presume to put a price
on him?
My children and I (and I suspect
most of the relatives of those who
died in that DC10) wish only to be
allowed to mourn with dignity.
Money would certainly be a help
to me in bringing up the children
and launching them on their careers.
I would like even more of a help
if it came soon. But please let us
have no talk of vengeance, let us
not be greedy for damages, which
can never be in any sense a
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Yours faithfully,
HEATHER BRIGSTOCKE,
41 Moor Street,
Chelsea, SW3.
March 2

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From Sir Iain Moncreiffe of that Ilk Sir, Mr. Kween, who was recently awarded what are now called "punitive damages" for the tragic loss of his son in the DC10 accident, has all our sympathy. But "Of the aircraft makers who have to find the compensation cash be said: 'If this is going to hurt them then it is wonderful.' The money would make no difference to the lives of the girls, be said". And in the same context he spoke of the compensation award as

From Count E. Raczyński

Sr. I write to express the gratitude of Polish readers of *The Times* all over the world to Bernard Levin for this article "The Four Freedoms of Poland, and the courageous protest of the 59 freedom-lovers" and to your paper for publishing it so well. I hope your issue of February 25, 1976.

Mr. Levin is right in saying that through the demands of 59 Polish intellectuals will remain unheeded by the country's communist bosses it will not be forgotten by the nation. This act of courage will sound like a clarion call "The fight for freedom—wrote our great poet Adam Mickiewicz—must be our heritage, which fathers bequeath to their sons!" This fight has never been interrupted in Poland.

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From Mr. Ronald Irving
Sir, May I join issue with Mr C. J. Wood and Professor G. Trasler, who condemn plea bargaining? It is in my opinion a highly practical and sensible method of dealing with a man who is prepared to admit his guilt should receive a lighter sentence.

We flatter ourselves that our criminal law is concerned to reform rather than punish. No one is in a better position to assess the extent to which a man who has accepted a sentence whether he has intentionally transgressed the criminal law. His frank admission must be taken as some indication of his acceptance of responsibility towards society and a willingness to reform himself. It would be wrong not to encourage such efforts by imposing a lighter sentence. It is argued too, that the measures necessary to assist his reform need be less severe.

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From Mr. Victor Pasmore
Sir, At the risk of dragging on the
anagony or comedy of the now famous
"Tate bricks" permit me to draw
your attention to a few factors
which perhaps should be considered
by the taxpayer before running this
sculpture.
First, the significance of modern
art is not so much that it has been
revolutionary as that it constitutes
a call to "start again". It is this
call which links the most radical
painting and sculpture today with
modern science. Science too claims
to start again, to build a new
renaissance of the human mind with
its revelations of some of the basic
intrinsic mechanisms of the natural
process. In the visual arts the mani-
festations of this claim have been
many and diverse. In architecture
function is king. In painting and
sculpture the basic elements of
creative art have been hailed as models
for renewal. But it is perhaps in
purely abstract terms that reas-
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It was surely Ruskin who first
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Cost of passports

From Professor H. A. Ree

Sir, The cost of a passport has recently been raised from £3 to £4 for a document valid for one year, and from £6 to £8 for one valid for ten years. I write to you to plead, not for special reductions for O.A.F.s, students nor for teachers, but for pupils at school. The greatest sufferers are those learning a foreign language. The difficulty of learning a foreign language at school, and only at a school, is well known; the enormous value of a visit to a foreign country while teaching a language is undeniable. Already the cost of a passport dissuades many parents from paying for their children to go on an exchange or a foreign visit. The new increases will dissuade more. What is needed is a cheap passport for anyone under 18 who buys it while still at school; to order to encourage regular visits it could be for the first five years.

Surely the importance of children getting into the habit of travelling abroad, and learning a language, is recognized as desirable, not least by those who are keen on the

"Vengeance". As a vengeful Scot myself, I know just how the feeling goes. The smag is, the guilty aircraft makers will not be "hurt" at all, nor pay a single farthing. The "punitive" costs will be borne by innocent people who have invested their savings in insurance companies all over the world, and perhaps especially in Britain itself. Those experts consulted by the Government who were undertaking to do what was to take the calculated risk of compensating fairly for the actuarially estimated loss of earnings to a bereaved family. And, since the dreadful DC10 accident differs in no way from a series of other accidents, the issue of making innocent people pay the whipping-bos who pay the "punitive" damages is of some moral as well as practical importance.

As for "vengeance money" itself, i.e. the blood-money so long alienated from the civilised law, there's something to be said for it. But it should be paid by the culprit. At present, our own law does this by imprisoning or fining him, if it's a case of criminal negligence. The defect is that it states keeps the innocent bereaved family out of the payoff by way of solace to the bereaved. Since this fine is intended both as punishment and deterrent, it should be no more proper to be against it than to be against the being fined for assault, fraud or burglary.

Meanwhile, the innocent insurers who pay "punitive" damages may one day get some reward. Whenever Charles J. as a boy committed an offence, his "godfather" Sir William Murray was flogged in the King. When Charles became King, he made Murray into the Duke of Dysart.

Yours truly,
JAMES CREIFFE of that ilk,
Barrister, Moncreiffe,
Perthshire.

In all the countries of the free world where Poles have settled, meetings of solidarity with our courageous spokesmen in the mother country are being held. In London, at a meeting at the Imperial College on February 10, the Rt. Hon. Lady Hornsby-Smith and Professor Michael Foot joined Polish speakers in condemning the rule of oppression imposed on our country.

At Martin's clear and brilliant assessment of the present situation in Poland counts for more than a mere expression of sympathy with a suffering nation.

We welcome it as a positive help given us at a time when so much attention is devoted to so-called "Déjà Dents."

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD RACZYŃSKI,
Polish Ambassador to the Court of St. James's,
Lennox Gardens, SW1.
February 25.

No one may be convicted until his guilt has been established beyond doubt. An accused man who has persisted in denying his guilt when alone knows the complete truth about himself less inclined to reform.

Untruthfulness and unwarranted attacks on witnesses are surely relevant to the judge's final assessment of the seriousness of the case, as well as the character of the defendant who he comes to pass sentence.

Where the accused has contested his guilt to the very end it makes it virtually impossible for his advocate to put forward any matters in mitigation which might have been taken into account by the court in assessing his responsibility, to justify the imposition of a lesser sentence.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD IRVING,
Upper Brook Street, W.1.

was the pot of paint and not the pot of ideas which was to constitute the symbol of painting in a new scientific age, the validity of which depends on its belief in the obsolescence of the natural process. Carl André has substituted bricks for the pot of paint, but it is this substitution that his sculpture is an authentic symbol of modern art. Of course this does not mean that the work of art is above criticism in terms of quality; but it does mean that the Tate Gallery is justified in acquiring it for the national collection.

Carl André has taken with the horizontal and vertical; Klee with a line going for a walk; Brancusi with his stones; Pollock with a blon of paint. Perhaps the new painter or sculptor should start with an electrical impulse rather than an old fashioned brick. But nevertheless if he has a good plan - but he is presented in a church or mausoleum is the tomb of an unknown warrior, a taxpayer would have raised a murmur. It is clear that modern art now needs a new dimension of the kind if it is to stimulate public attention.

ours, etc.

VICTOR PASMORE,
Gair Gair,
to Kaxkio,
India, Malco.

development of the EEC. Let's encourage them.

Perhaps a Community passport could be devised for children entering a school, but French children at least wouldn't need one. They can enter this country with merely a French identity card. This costs them 10 francs and is valid for ten years. "Un peu d'égalité, Monsieur, un peu d'égalité!"

ours etc.

LARRY A. REE,
Woodberry Down School,
Woodberry Grove, N4.
March 1.

from Dr S. H. Asnerorth

in. It was with interest that I read in *The Times* of February 26 of the proposed increase in cost of a British passport from £6 to £8.

My wife, a West German national, has recently renewed her passport at the West German Embassy at a cost of £55 for five years!

H. AYNSWORTH,
D Beechcroft Road,
Iwerstoke.
Esport, Hampshire.
February 28.

From Mr F. A. Burden, Conservative MP for Gillingham

Sir, Newspaper and other reports of statements made after the RSPCA council meeting on February 25 seem to me to have been widely misinterpreted.

In my opinion no definitive new decisions were taken on hunting, shooting and fishing. There was a reaffirmation only of the policy on hunting which council members were told had been in existence since 1971.

The society has recently made a grant of £7,000 to Exeter University for an expert and impartial investigation into the ecology of the fox, whether it is bad and, if so, what are the best and most humane methods of control. It would surely be an incredible and inexcusable act of folly and waste of RSPCA money if the council had already decided to ignore the findings, findings and recommendations.

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There was a reaffirmation of the existing attitude towards shroonics, on which the Council decided to form a committee to investigate and report before attempting to define a policy. The same action is being taken on angling.

If the investigations, reports and recommendations are to have any authority or credibility, the men making them must be people of undoubted ability and impartiality. They must be allowed to carry out their task without interference and with complete freedom to take evidence from organizations representing all the various fishing interests; from individual experts and from officers of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, many of whom have unrivalled experience in the field.

There is so much to be done to improve and promote animal welfare in areas which have the support of the great mass of public opinion and then of a considerable number of MPs of all political parties, that I believe the RSPCA must now concentrate on promoting and pursuing its aims.

If the society appears to have been taken over by a few emotional zealots determined to introduce unrealistic and divisive policies it will rapidly lose its position as our greatest animal welfare organization and a national institution.

W. G. FAIRBANKS
F. A. BURDEN
House of Commons.
March 1.

From Lord Taylor of Harlow
Sir, In your leading article "Small
is Harmoious" (February 25), you
point out the clear relationship
between number and severity of
accidental types and size of work-
place. This is equally true for
absences from work for health
reasons and for voluntary general
absence. The larger the factory work
force, the higher the sickness rate
and the voluntary absence rate. This
was clearly shown by R. W. Revans
in 1960.

Moreover, accidents per 100,000
man shifts worked in mines rise
steadily with the number of workers
per mine. This rule applies even to
transfers to hospital. In hospitals with
less than 100 beds, the sickness
rate is about 10 per cent, whereas
two thirds those of hospitals
with 300 or more beds.

When I was looking after the
health needs of over 100 factories
in Harlow New Town, it became
clear to me that the optimum size of
factory, from the point of view of
health and working morale, was
somewhere between 50 and 100 em-
ployees. Such factories often
achieved very high levels of both
productivity and profitability. Un-
fortunately, they were singularly
prone to take-over bids. Once they
became part of a large organization,
the health and safety danger
relative failure of the parent com-
pany, when the small subsidiary is
profitable, may lead to attempts to
transfer the profitable work of the
small organization to its unsuccess-
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well alone and has the sense to leave
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Yours, etc.,
"TAYLOR."
March of Lords
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from Mr Terence Feely

I, Mr have been writing for some-
one more scientifically authoritative
—although not necessarily more
imaginative—to draw the ultimate
conclusion from the information from your
article (February 21) on the current
status of the techniques known as
“cloning”. He has not been forth-
coming; I must therefore do it
myself.

The alarming prediction here is
that it seems to me, the possibility
of reproducing numbers of identical
human beings or of genetically
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is so important through these possibilities
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of “cloning” in the human species
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THE COMPLETE INSTRUCTION SERVICE

ICI to trim jobs by 4,500 over next four years as fibres sector loses £31m

ICI has already announced a restructuring plan which will involve the loss of 4,500 jobs over the next four years. This will mean a cut of 30 per cent.

The restructuring follows a turnaround in the group's activities, which last year ended with a £31m loss after a £100m loss in 1974. Senior executives have been reviewing the group's activities and target is an adequate return on its investment in and to that the board is that a 30 per cent cut and a 25 per cent boost in productivity will be required.

The group has already announced a restructuring plan which will involve the loss of 4,500 jobs over the next four years. This will mean a cut of 30 per cent.

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Goldsmith switch puts Cavenham in Paris market

By Christopher Wilkins
Mr. Jimmy Goldsmith's switch to the Paris market has been a result of the fact that the Paris-based Générale Alimentaire, his master company, will acquire a controlling interest in Cavenham, the giant food group.

The other main effect of the deal is that Cavenham will acquire 100 per cent control of Générale Alimentaire, a leading French food group in which it holds a 47 per cent interest. Cavenham had been blocked from acquiring complete control of Générale Alimentaire because of a French government ruling that control of such an important company should not be allowed to pass outside France.

The French government has now agreed to remove this obstacle, clearing the way for a complicated series of deals. In the first place Générale Alimentaire, which together with Anglo-Continental Investments owns 99 per cent of Cavenham, is bidding for the outstanding shares in Générale Alimentaire.

Cavenham will then acquire the shares of Générale Alimentaire. Mr. Roland Franklin, a director of Anglo-Continental Investments, said last night that it had been necessary to arrange the deal in this way to avoid problems of financing it either through the dollar market or by means of overseas borrowings.

Usually, overseas acquisitions can only be undertaken through one or other of these channels, but Générale Alimentaire has undertaken never to sell its Cavenham shares, which has enabled it to escape the normal requirements.

As a result of the issue of new Cavenham shares, Générale Alimentaire will emerge with a 51 per cent overall holding in Cavenham. This will be partly held by Générale Alimentaire (32 per cent) and partly by Anglo-Continental (19 per cent), of which Générale Alimentaire holds 67 per cent.

Mr. Goldsmith's private interests are believed to hold 14 per cent of the new Générale Alimentaire. Hambro's Bank holds a further 11 per cent and Baron Alexis de Camille, 14.5 per cent.

Générale Alimentaire, which has a turnover last year of \$85m (about £65m) and made a net profit of £14.5m in the year to March 31, 1975, produces a wide range of grocery products, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, and animal food.

Iran bank seeks \$100m Euroloan
Only two weeks after completing a \$50m (about £25m) loan, the Industrial Credit Bank of Iran is returning to the Eurocurrency markets for a further loan of \$100m. The loan is expected to be for seven years and to carry a margin over inter-bank rates of 1 1/2 per cent.

This will be the same rate as Iran's Agricultural Development Bank obtained on a six-year loan in January.

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UK reserves gained last month from exchange market disruption

By Malvern Westlake
Britain's foreign reserves have enjoyed an unexpected boost from last month's disruption on the exchange markets when several continental currencies were facing severe speculative pressure.

On the evidence of changes in the 'country's' international reserves, the Bank of England would seem to have used sterling's relative strength to purchase dollars and thereby boost the reserves.

Figures published by the Treasury yesterday show a rise of \$235m (£115m) to \$7,024m in the reserves during February. But this is not a true reflection of the underlying situation, because it is arrived at after the inclusion of \$235m of foreign borrowings and \$40m of repayments of past loans.

When these sums are excluded a fall of \$14m is shown. By recent standards that is a surprisingly small decline, particularly as there are usually a variety of official overseas transactions that tend to drain money out of the reserves.

Such official outflows would seem to have been offset by direct sales of dollars to the Bank of England.

How large such purchases could have been is difficult to estimate and the Bank of England never reveals this information. But sterling was left largely on the sidelines during the 'mini-crisis' of late January and February, when there were big outflows of capital from several countries, notably France.

The Danish, Belgian and Italian currencies were also under severe pressure. Although most of the capital outflows went into West Germany and Switzerland, it seems possible that at least some of these funds may have come to London and into the national reserves at the Bank of England.

After weakening for a time in the middle of the month, sterling then strengthened quite sharply. The pound's 'floating' devaluation against 10 key currencies, from the base date of June, 1972, improved to 30.2 per cent, having touched its worst level of 30.6 per cent in mid-February.

Calm was only restored in the Continental currencies when M. Giscard d'Estaing, the French President, and Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, decided to resist any change in the franc-

mark exchange rate within the European block of floating currencies.

In addition to the gratuitous inflows from the Continent, sterling is traditionally stronger in the first quarter of the year, partly because of the seasonal deployment of corporate and Commonwealth sterling funds.

These capital movements militate against the adverse influence of Britain's continuing overseas trade deficit.

Of the \$235m of foreign loans that also boosted the total reserves figure in February, some \$125m was provided to the British Steel Corporation and the National Coal Board by the European Coal and Steel Community.

A further \$40m was lent by the European Investment Bank to British Gas, which also raised the rest of the loans, which were made directly to public bodies without passing through the market.

On the foreign exchanges the lira fell sharply in light trading, while bankers in Rome described events in the market as puzzling and confused.

The Italian central bank appeared to have given no support to its currency. Consequently the dollar rose against the lira from 781 to 790. Since mid-January the lira has fallen about 13 per cent on this basis.

UK RESERVES

The following are the figures for the United Kingdom's official reserves, issued by the Treasury yesterday

End of period	\$m	£m	Change in month
1975	6882	2526	
1976	5967	2404	
1977	8478	2787	
1978	6789	2890	
1979	6789	3344	
1975	7064	2908	+231
March	7117	2882	+53
April	7132	3032	+15
May	6491	3002	-841
June	6188	2837	-293
July	6259	2809	-61
Aug	6004	2845	-255
Sep	5838	2867	-145
Oct	5713	2749	-146
Nov	5802	2775	-107
Dec	5429	2883	-177
1976	6785	3344	+1358
Jan	7024	3488	+239

* Sterling figures from 1971 to May 1972 valued at the Smithsonian party rate of \$2.00/£1, and from 1972 at the closing rate on the last day of the period. Gold and silver valued at their dollar per \$1.

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City to set up centre for public relations

By Our Financial Staff
Almost two years after Mr Gordon Richardson, Governor of the Bank of England, set up a small working party to see what needed to be done about the City's publicity and public relations, a decision has been taken to start a City Communications Organisation.

At first it will be a low-key affair. An executive director and press officer have yet to be appointed, and there is still some uncertainty about where the new City Communications Centre will be.

No one is claiming that this is an attempt to provide a 'spokesman for the City'. Such an ambitious idea was considered and quickly rejected by the working party, which was chaired by Sir Eric Faulner, chairman of Lloyds Bank.

The centre's role is one of coordination and not of direction, Sir Eric said. "It's purpose will be twofold: it will provide a channel of communication between the various and diverse sections of the City. We hope it will provide a useful service in the media in directing them to authoritative sources of information."

The centre will be directed by an executive committee with Sir Eric as chairman and Mr William Clarke, director-general of the Committee on Invisible Exports, as deputy chairman.

Mr Clarke has agreed to take on the initial organization of the centre. He envisages the possibility that his invisible committee and the City Communications Organisation can be housed in the same premises with some shared services.

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Wait call end BP's count

At March 2—Kuwait's oil assembly today recommended a 15 per cent reduction on oil prices to Gulf Oil and Petroleum.

reduction was part of an attempt under which the government took over 25 per cent of the oil companies.

Mr. Abdulrahman al-Fahd, Kuwait's oil minister, said that the government should not be taken up to the oil companies.

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Exploration in Celtic Sea to be stepped up

By Our Industrial Correspondent
Exploration for oil and gas in the Celtic Sea will receive a much-needed boost in the next few months.

Amoco (UK) Exploration announced yesterday that it planned to drill the first exploration well for a group named up of Mobil, the Gas Council, and Amoco in the Celtic Sea in a few months.

Imperial Chemical Industries, which is involved in evaluation of a number of offshore prospects around the world in order to secure its raw material supplies, also expected to drill in the Celtic Sea this year.

On the British side of the Celtic Sea a total of 44 blocks have been licensed for exploration but only one well has been drilled. This was in 1975 and the well was dry.

The search for gas and oil in the United Kingdom sector stopped early last year, partly because of the success in the North Sea and partly because of the success in the North Sea.

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Promise of secrecy over sites for oil refineries

By Roger Vignoles

Oil companies will be allowed to keep government authorisation for new refinery projects and extensions to existing plants a secret until they are ready to seek planning permission for their projects.

Under new regulations covering refinery buildings, companies need a certificate from the Department of Energy to state that the project is necessary as part of an overall national strategy for ensuring there is sufficient processing capacity.

But Mr. John Smith, the Minister of State for Energy and the man responsible for refining policy, has said these authorisations will be kept secret to preserve "commercial confidentiality" between the companies and the Department of Energy.

The Department of Energy acquired its new powers over refinery buildings in the Petroleum and Submarine Pipe-lines Act, 1975. Previously, no permission was needed from the department to make an application for a new refinery site.

At the department's decision that a new refinery is necessary in the light of national requirements, the authorisation is granted. The oil company can then keep this document secret for a year before bringing the plan into the open by making an official planning application.

Under these new regulations, the Secretary of State for Energy has wide powers to specify the capacity and general location of the refinery. He cannot, however, tie the authorisation to a specific site. Approving the site planning grounds remains the responsibility of the Department of the Environment.

Although the department will have stated that a refinery in a general location is in the national interest, the public will still be able to contest this point at a public inquiry.

However, with the weight of a government authorisation already behind the oil company, it will obviously be difficult for protesters to argue that the project is not in the national interest.

There is no published government strategy for refining developments. The Petroleum and Submarine Pipe-lines Act does not make any provision for this government company "confidentiality". It is a policy which has emerged from consultations between ministers and civil servants.

There is a precedent for maintaining this type of confidentiality in the methods used for granting industrial development certificates, the Department of Energy says. Refiners, however, are much larger and more likely to be dispersed than the average factory development.

These government powers over refining apply to projects presented after December 31, 1974.

Department of Trade survey points to big rise in exports

By Edward Townsend

Britain's major exporters are expecting the volume of goods sold abroad to increase by 10 per cent in the third quarter of this year compared with 1975, a figure which yesterday prompted Mr. John Smith, Secretary of State for Trade, to issue a rallying call to industry.

Results of his department's latest survey indicated that the growth of exports in the next few months should be appreciably higher than seemed probable last autumn, he said. "I say this not to generate euphoria but to underline the fact that an export-led recovery is within our grasp."

Addressing the British Overseas Trade Advisory Council, the body set up last year to liaise between the British Overseas Trade Board and industry and commerce, Mr. Smith said:

"It is in these areas that we must now look to for the nation must give exports an urgency and a priority that they had not enjoyed for a long time."

He would be surprised if final 1975 figures did not show a significant recovery in the country's share of world trade for the first time since 1971, a result won against intense competition.

It was now clear that the tide of world trade turned in about mid-1975 and would proceed at a quickening pace throughout 1976. Although the volume of exports by nations in the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries would continue to increase strongly, the greatest market change in the world recovery would be in the industrialised countries of North America, continental Europe and Japan.

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1,000 jobs at BSR for new record player

By Peter Hill

BSR, the Birmingham-based company best known for its record players, yesterday launched a new electronic controlled system, said to be at least two years ahead of its competitors, and announced that to produce it, an additional 1,000 workers would be needed by the end of the year.

The new jobs will be at BSR's recently-built £1.4m factory at Warley, near Birmingham.

The product, called Accutrac, will be assembled at the rate of 500 a week by September, and BSR, which already exports more than 80 per cent of its sound reproduction units, is aiming specifically for the American and Japanese markets.

Accutrac, to be marketed under the name of the Audio Dynamics Corporation, an American manufacturer of magnetic cartridges and loud speakers which BSR took over in 1973, is described as the most advanced turntable in existence.

Using a system of electronic micro circuits, Accutrac enables the tracks on a long-playing record to be pre-selected in any order, so that the turntable can be remote-controlled.

The cost of the record player in the United Kingdom, without an amplifier and speakers, will be just under £300. Cheaper versions are planned.

Mr. J. N. Ferguson, BSR's chairman, said that the new unit had been developed at a cost of about £750,000 and would be aimed initially at the top end of the hi-fi market.

He said the world recession and the fall in disposable incomes, BSR's sales of record players had increased significantly last year, he said.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Which way should the oil line run?

From Mr J. P. Grant

Sir, Mr. Hugh Stephenson is quite correct when he says (March 1) that the line drawn at 55° 50' N. by the Continental Shelf (Jurisdiction) Order 1968 would be unacceptable in legal terms as the North Sea boundary of the shelf between an independent Scotland and England.

Mr. Stephenson is correct also when he says that the question of delimitation would be "a very real 'paradise'". What is debatable is the contention that the boundary line would "run more nearly north-east" and that "the line would normally be expected to be new at right angles to the line of the coast at the point where the land boundary ends".

This equidistance principle is enshrined in the Geneva Convention on the Continental Shelf of 1958. The government of an independent Scotland would not be bound automatically by that Convention. Under customary rules of international law every coastal state is entitled to the resources of the seabed proximate to its territory.

This was affirmed by the International Court of Justice in 1969 in the North Sea Continental Shelf Case which also laid down the factors to be taken into account in delimiting

the shelf between opposite or adjacent states. These factors emphasize that delimitation must be effected on an equitable basis; to that end account should be made of the equidistance principle (normally the most equitable way of delimiting), of the geography of the area, of the configuration of the coastline, of the unity of mineral deposits in the area being delimited and of the proportionality between the length of coastline and the area of shelf of each state.

These factors permit of great flexibility in any delimitation agreement, and I think it is more favourable to an independent Scotland than the conventional rules for delimitation. I personally doubt whether the boundary line would run in a north-easterly direction; such a line would place the Morros field in the English sector, and put the Forth field in jeopardy. One thing is abundantly clear: using either the customary or conventional tests for delimitation, the Josephine, Auk and Argyl fields fall within the English sector.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN P. GRANT,
Department of Public International Law,
University of Glasgow,
Glasgow G12 8QQ,
March 1.

No benefits from hotel aid scheme

From Mr S. Stewart

Sir, Mr. Fraser (Fab) canon, have been "beneficiaries" of the development scheme which are "demerit" of the right type in "right places" but a Government subsidy required to enable such a scheme to be provided, not whether more would have been but scheme had not generated plus of accommodation, and other tourist.

Figures published by the Tourist Board show the supply of hotel accommodation was increasing before the scheme. There is evidence to suggest that the hotels built with the aid of the scheme would have been a surplus. There have been a surplus, effect on building a profitability would be less catastrophic. The river no benefit operation nor, in the industry.

Yours sincerely,
SHAUN STEWART,
The Old House,
Willards Hill,
Easton,
E. Sussex,
February 28.

No effort made to curb PO increases

From Sir Derek Greenaway

Sir, As a major city and financial printer and also a member of the Mail Users' Association, we feel that as a large business user of the Post Office services we must record a strong protest in the proposed further increases in the postal tariffs, the fourth major increase in under 24 months.

Our company is involved in the printing and posting of a very large number of company reports and accounts, financial and legal documents. Greenaway's own postal

charges amount to approximately £8,000 per annum, but in addition we will be spending approximately £450,000 this year on behalf of our customers.

We are constantly informed of the Government policy to counter inflation, but how can industry control costs when essential services continue to increase such as postage?

What is the use of the Government appointing a committee to inquire into postal affairs if it permits a further increase whilst the committee is commencing its

attempts? There appears to be no effort to control further increases maintained until the final committee have been listed, when it is further increases necessary as a result of inflation for economies and reorg.

DEREK GREENAWAY,
Greenaway House,
132 Commercial Street,
London, E1 6NF,
February 27.

Natural gas harming viability of other energy industries

From Mr J. H. Goodland

Sir, On February 5 you published a letter of mine "Pricing of gas for hydrocarbons". The chairman of the Central Electricity Generating Board and the National Coal Board seem to have accepted the principle of a depletion tax on fossil fuels at their well-publicized meeting on February 21. As the chairman of the British Gas Corporation, quite understandably, denounces it with all the scorn at his command.

There seems to be little doubt that natural gas, by its pricing, is harming the viability of our other energy industries, and inhibiting the development of both nuclear and renewable

sources, so that when gas inevitably runs out there will be a yawning gap in our energy supply.

If natural gas, according to all these frequent and expensive BGC half-page advertisements, is so convenient, too good to waste, in such short supply, with so much sold to industry at knock-down prices, why is it not being conserved against a conservation tax on natural gas, the most precious and short-lived of all our natural resources?

Yours sincerely,
JOHN H. GOODLAND,
Down House,
Pyleigh,
Taunton TA4 3RA,
February 26.

Scapegoats of Society

From Miss J. Sargent

Sir, I have followed the correspondence regarding unemployment figures in the press with interest. The figures are, of course, a reflection of the state of the economy, but they are also a reflection of the state of the nation. The figures are, of course, a reflection of the state of the economy, but they are also a reflection of the state of the nation. The figures are, of course, a reflection of the state of the economy, but they are also a reflection of the state of the nation.

Balancing London's employment

From Mr. ILLTYD HARRINGTON

Sir, Mr. Geoffrey Finsberg, in his letter (February 25) was apparently referring to modifications which have been proposed by the Secretary of State for the Environment to the Greater London Development Plan submitted when the GLC was controlled by Mr. Finsberg's Conservative colleagues. The modifications would add to the plan references to measures for dealing with underemployment such as rehabilitating industrial areas, granting financial aid to firms to assist them to employ more people, and purchasing or preparing land for the establishment of work places. These are in line with proposals which we ourselves made in 1973 and we are happy to see them included in the plan.

It is true that when we sought additional powers in 1973 in respect of granting financial aid to firms they were disallowed by Parliament. Presumably we shall have Mr. Finsberg's support when the time comes to try again. I hope we shall also have his support in our efforts to get for London the resources that are needed to implement the policies to which he refers.

I do feel that his letter is fair in censuring our Conservative predecessors for ignoring the employment needs of the public services in the GLC. The problem was not as acute at that time as it subsequently became. I know that they were as concerned as we were about the manpower shortages in these services

which came to a peak in 1973 and led to Mr. Heath's agreeing to set up with us the study to which Mr. Finsberg refers.

By 1973 we had the paradox of shortages of manpower in the public services coexisting with high unemployment in some places, even then—particularly in the older industrial areas and particularly among unskilled workers. The very rapid changes that have been taking place in London's population and employment since 1961 inevitably cause this kind of imbalance.

While the recession since has resulted in a very considerable improvement in the manning of the public services, we accept that the problem could re-emerge when the economy picks up again and that steps to cope with it will need to be considered in conjunction with the Manpower Services Commission. But it should not be assumed that it is a question of competition between employment in manufacturing and in the public services. It is more likely to be a matter of how to achieve a better balance of employment with the service sector generally, while at the same time providing employment in manufacturing for those in the old industrial areas who cannot readily adapt to the skill and other requirements of the public services, where in any case shortages may well be at long distances from their homes.

We agree with Mr. Colin Dauris on the importance of what he attaches to his letter (February 25) in the need of the small firm—that we have ourselves referred to as the

"seed-bed" type of firm from which many businesses have traditionally developed. The built unit workshops to provide accommodation for such firms and on access to other types of modulation that could be able for them. I was any industrial enterprise or small and no premises in London touch with our centre (telephone 01 They are there to such problems.

Both Mr Dauris and I are right to draw to the significance of rates and birth rates in the future. In the long run, we agree that closures (deaths) of firms have been responsible for the loss of jobs since 1961 we course, look at all that contribute. It is vital that the G should come in the extent of the national deaths in London in on small national policies, as sent a loss of productivity for the nation as a whole. I know that national industrial re

Yours faithfully,
ILLTYD HARRINGTON
The County Hall,
London, SE1 7PB,
February 26.

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Bristol Waterworks Company Report

FINANCIAL RESERVES RESTORED DESPITE RISING COSTS

Striking success in the restoration of the Company's reserves is commented upon in the statement submitted by the Chairman of Bristol Waterworks Company, Mr. J. H. Britton, to the Board of Directors and Accounts to be presented at the 130th annual general meeting of shareholders on Monday, 29th March, 1976.

* A vigorous campaign in the 1973 and 1974 Accounts had reduced the carry forward to £90,000. "Having secured the Board's determination to put this right," says the Chairman, "and it is highly satisfactory to report that the great effort of the Company's management has struck a decisive blow."

* The Accounts disclose a surplus for the year of £584,000 which, added to the £90,000 brought forward, gives a total surplus at the end of 1975 of £674,000 — "a much sounder state of affairs."

* In 1975 gross revenue was up by £2,506,000 (35%) to £9,620,000.

* Working expenses up by £1,464,000 (37%) to £5,475,000.

Costs 2 1/2% up

* Total costs up by £1,723,000 (24%) to £9,036,000.

* Average daily consumption of water — 70 million gallons — was almost the same as in 1974, the increase in domestic use being matched by a reduction in the quantity taken by industry and commerce. The peak consumption of 84 million gallons on June 11 was 2 1/2 million gallons higher than the previous year's record figure and was mainly caused by the use of hospices for gardens.

* The period from April to December 1975 was the driest nine months since 1933, rainfall being only 68% of the standard average, and the four months October 1975 to January 1976 were the driest for this period since 1904/5.

* Unless there is average rainfall during the early spring we are likely to be faced with supply problems later in the year.

Capital Expenditure

* Expenditure on fixed assets in 1975 amounted to £2,206,000. The most important project started was the forward-looking Maesbury scheme which will transfer water across the Mendips in order to meet the growing demand in north-west Somerset and which will eventually cost about £1,000,000. Further work was undertaken (and is still in progress) laying trunk mains to extend the distribution of Severn water into a wider area.

* Referring to his impending retirement as Chairman and Director, Mr. Britton comments, "After some years of exceptional difficulty I am able to leave to my successor (Mr. A. N. Irens) a sound and greatly strengthened business."

* On the company's general economy he says, "Some gleams of light are appearing which give hope that in the next few years there will be some brightening of the prevailing gloom. Not long ago we could regard ourselves as a united, determined, industrious and resilient people. We shall only recover our sooty tarnished pride and prestige and prosperity when these qualities can be seen to be emerging once again."

WATER Bristol Waterworks Company, Bridgewater Road, Bristol BS99 7AU.

New Zealand to curb imports

Wellington, March 2.—Mr. Robert Muldoon, Prime Minister of New Zealand, faced with a growing trade deficit and other economic difficulties, tonight announced a sweeping package of measures designed to cut the country's imports and increase government control over credit.

In an effort to curb imports, Mr. Muldoon has abolished hire purchase on new cars—a move expected to hit heavily at the sale of larger, more expensive models from Britain and Australia.

Hire purchase regulations on colour television sets were toughened by Mr. Muldoon, who is also Minister of Finance.

The Prime Minister, whose National Party assumed office after winning last November's general election, said his package would boost New Zealand's ailing housing industry. He also said the Government intended to operate a policy of flexible interest rates.—Reuter.

Swiss bank creditors agree on compensation

The creditors of Banque de Credit International, of Geneva, which collapsed last year, approved the compensation proposal made at a creditors meeting in Geneva yesterday.

Small creditors will be compensated in full up to the amount of 5,000 Swiss francs, while large creditors will receive only 17 per cent of their demands against the bank. Geneva authorities are expected to approve the plan soon.

EEC-Comecon link

Brussels, March 2.—The nine governments of the European Community today approved a letter to Comecon, the economic organization of the Soviet Union and its allies, promising to study its proposal for closer contacts.

More take holidays abroad and fewer go to UK resorts

By Patricia Tisdall

Tank a million fewer Britons took holidays in the United Kingdom last year compared with 1974, and their spending was up by only 15 per cent—less than the rate of inflation—according to a survey issued by the British Tourist Authority yesterday. But holiday abroad went up from seven to eight million.

Hoteliers and tourist organizations say early bookings at British resorts indicate little if any increase in this summer's volume of trade. A spokesman for Golden Rail, the British Railways inclusive holiday division, said advance bookings for 1976 reflected the depressed economic conditions. Mr. Christopher Jennings, director of the Thames & Chilterns Tourist Board, said some higher-cost holidays were being booked, but that overseas

IMF seek higher financial quotas

Washington, March 2.—The 128-nation International Monetary Fund today asked member governments to vote by March 22 on proposed increases in the IMF's regular financing resources to about \$45,600m (about £22,000m).

Member country quotas are now about \$34,200m. The United States quota, the largest for any country, would be increased to about \$9,830m.

The regular "country quotas" determine each nation's subscription as well as its borrowing from the IMF. In addition, voting power is determined by the size of each country's quota.—AP-Dow Jones.

More changes sought for Dock Work Bill

London Wharfingers' Association, which represents the porters, stevedores and other workers in the Port of London, said yesterday that it is not opposed to the Dock Work Regulation Bill now going through Parliament. However, it says the Bill as currently drafted, and likely to pass, contains more problems than it will eliminate. Consequently the association is seeking several amendments.

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Goode Durrant & Murray Group Limited

Extracts from Mr Lionel Robinson's statement

As against the first half's £302,000 the second half recovered to £588,000 to produce a pre-tax profit for the year of £886,000. The board recommends an unchanged dividend of 15.5%.

The profit was made after provisions totalling £1,103,000 against instalment credit and banking losses. We believe future profit growth will not again be held back by write-offs of this order.

The improvement in the second half showed the virtue of our geographical and commercial diversity. Overseas profits were up again even though their value in sterling to the parent was adversely affected by devaluations in New Zealand and South Africa. Kirkcaldie & Stains after eight years of rising profits produced a near record £448,000. Our Southern African profits exceeded £460,000 for the first time. Our UK activities traded lower despite high earnings by the engineering and continuing divisions — whose combined turnover (which includes the export earnings) totalled £16.9m. Raylows, who are in the process of streamlining their organisation, announced their first half loss and

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 § Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.



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